

Jesús Blasco's

Once Upon a Time



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Jesús Blasco

The Sleeping Princess



Once Upon a Time

19 July 1969 #23 - 6 Sept. 1969 #30

The Sleeping Princess



1. Once upon a time, in a faraway land, there lived a King and Queen. They were very happy together and all the people in their Kingdom loved them dearly, for they were kind and just rulers. There was only one thing the King and Queen wished for to make their happiness complete. It was to have a child of their own. At last the beautiful Queen had a beautiful daughter.

2. "How wonderful it all is!" said the King. "At last we have a little Princess." There was much rejoicing and bells were rung throughout the land. It was a very happy day indeed when the Queen was able to carry her precious baby out into the sunshine on the Royal Palace steps and show the lovely child to the people of the land. They cheered and cheered.



3. Great preparations were made for the Royal baby's christening and there was to be a wonderful feast in the Royal Palace. "Let it be the finest and happiest day we have ever known in the Kingdom," said the King. All the gentlefolk in the land were invited as well as seven fairies. The King said that he would make them all godmothers of the new princess.

4. Suddenly the door flew open and another fairy burst in. "Why was I not invited to the feast?" she asked. The King had forgotten her, for she lived in a palace of snow far to the North.



5. However, the King and Queen both said they were very sorry that the Ice Fairy had been forgotten but they asked her to sit down and join in the feast. But the poor King had forgotten another thing as well. After the christening feast, when the baby's presents had been given, he planned to give each fairy a golden goblet.

6. "Oh dear, oh dear, I have only seven goblets," he sighed. "I hope the Ice Fairy will not notice it. There isn't time now to get another one made." The Ice Fairy DID notice it, however, but she said nothing. She sat at the table among the other gay fairies, scowling and planning and not joining in any of the fun.



7. When the magnificent feast was over, the fairies rose from the table and began to bestow their gifts on the new baby. The little princess lay in her cradle, gurgling and cooing and very happy that such a fuss was being made of her. All the good fairies crowded round except one, who stood half-hidden by some curtains.

8. "All through the meal I have been watching the Ice Fairy," she said to herself. "I have a feeling that she is planning to do harm to the Royal Princess. I do not trust her, so I shall keep back and be the last to speak to the baby, which will give me the chance to undo any harmful thing which the wicked Ice Fairy might wish upon her."

The Sleeping Princess



1. Now came the exciting moment at the christening feast in the Royal Palace, when the fairies of the Kingdom bestowed their gifts upon the baby princess. The first gave her the gift of beauty, the second the gift of great cleverness.

2. The third gave her grace, the fourth wished that she would dance like a feather, the fifth that she would sing like a nightingale, the sixth that she would be able to play every musical instrument. The wicked Ice Fairy watched.



"I give her the gift of beauty."



"I give her the gift of cleverness."



"I give her the gift of grace."



"I give her the gift of dancing like a feather."



"I give her the gift of singing like a nightingale."



"I give her the gift of playing all musical instruments."



3. Then the Ice Fairy stepped forward, angry at not having been invited. Pointing a bony finger at the child, the Ice Fairy said that on the eighteenth birthday of the princess she would prick her finger on a spinning-wheel spindle and die.



4. Suddenly, from behind a curtain where she had been hiding, the youngest fairy stepped forward. "Fear not," she said to the King and Queen. "Your daughter shall not die. I have not the power to change the Ice Fairy's vow, but instead of dying the princess will fall into a deep sleep which will last for a hundred years, when a prince will wake her."



5. With an angry shout and in a swirl of rushing wind, the Ice Fairy vanished, as the young good fairy smilingly touched the baby with her magic wand and wished.

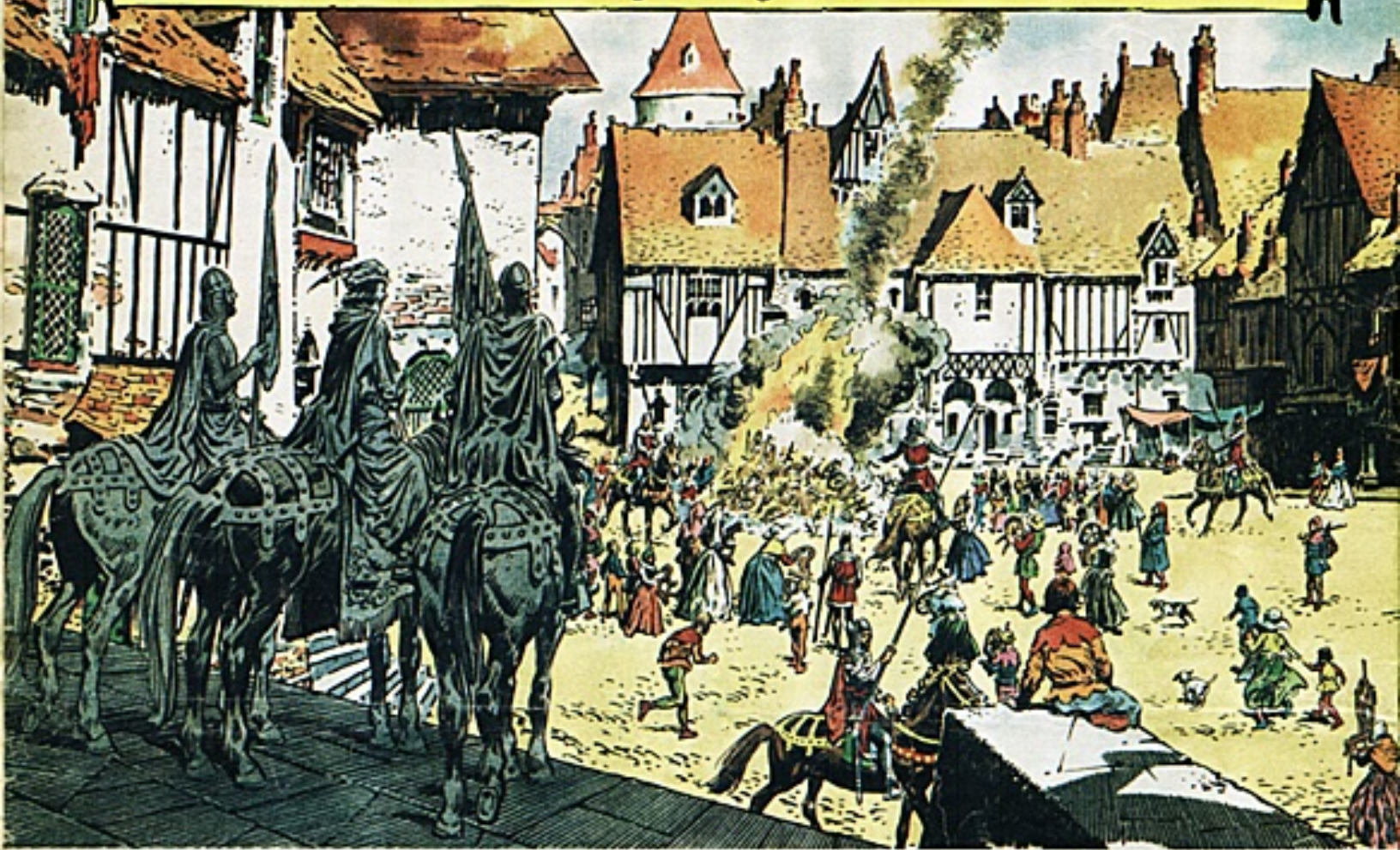


6. When all the guests had gone, the Queen sat sadly by the cradle of the baby princess, hoping so much that nothing would happen to her. As for the King, he summoned the Royal Herald. "I have a special task for you," he said.



7. The Herald obeyed the command given to him by the King and, mounted upon his magnificent horse, he rode to the market-place. A few loud notes on his trumpet summoned all the people of the Kingdom. "Hear this—by special order of His Majesty the King!" he shouted loudly. "From this day, all the spinning wheels in the Kingdom are to be burnt, and no person will be allowed to keep one in his home, under threat of great punishment."

The Sleeping Princess



1. The wicked Ice Fairy had cast a magic spell upon the baby princess, saying that she would one day prick her finger on a spinning-wheel needle and fall asleep for a hundred years. But the King made up his mind that such an awful thing would never happen. "Send word to all citizens of my Kingdom," he ordered.

2. "Tell them that every spinning-wheel must be brought here and burnt at once, and that no new ones shall ever be made." What a sight it was, when the people crowded into the market place and cast their spinning-wheels upon a huge bonfire, which crackled and roared. The children thought it great fun.



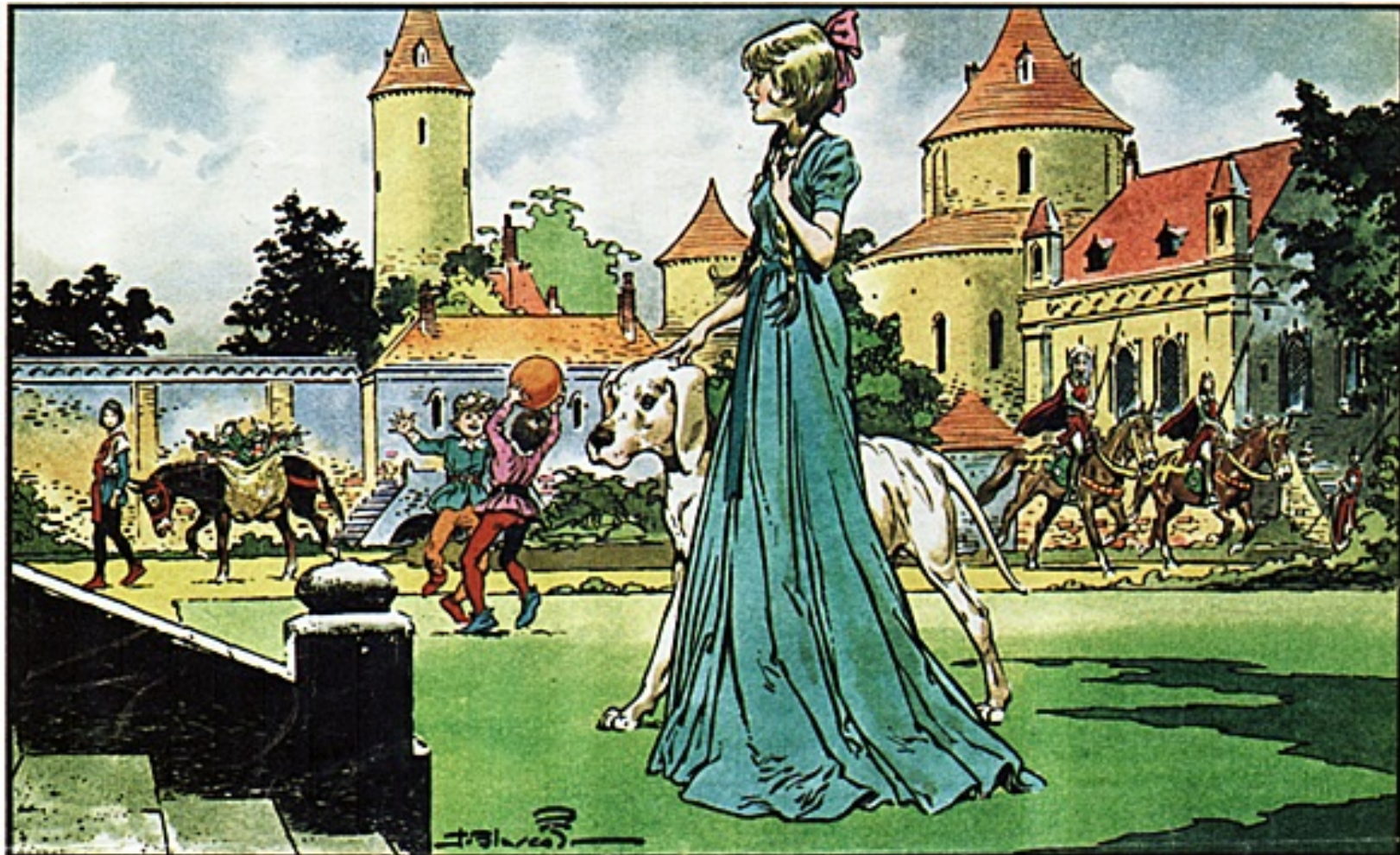
3. There was now no spinning-wheel in all the Kingdom, and the King and Queen felt much relieved, and watched their lovely little daughter grow up.



4. When she was a charming little girl of eight, everybody was in love with her—even the animals of the Kingdom, who came to her to be fed and cuddled.

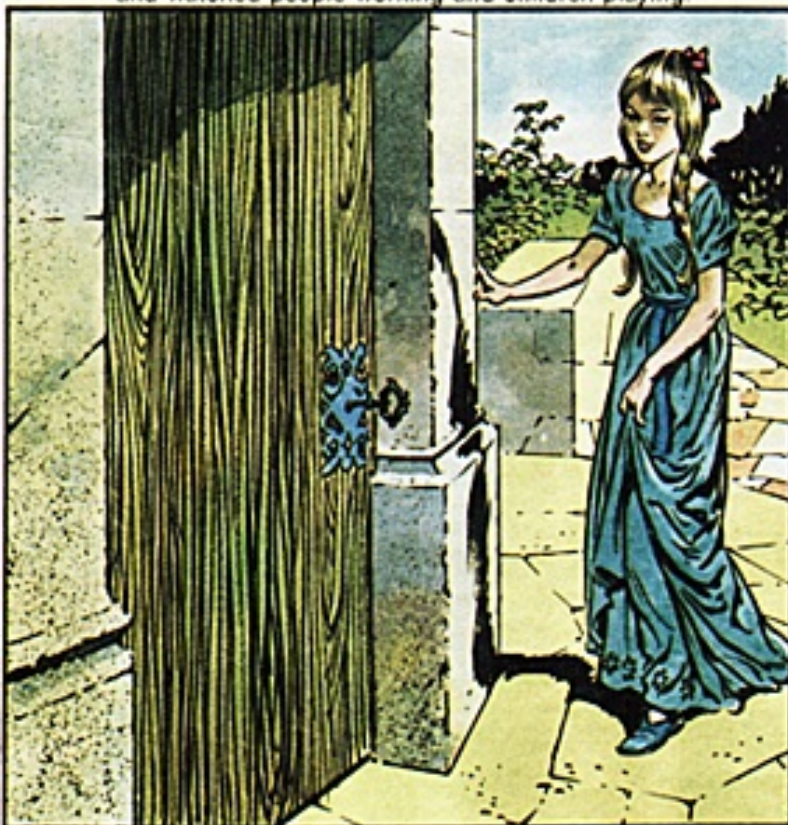


5. At seventeen, the princess could play all musical instruments, as one of the good fairies had promised. The King and Queen were so delighted.



6. When she was eighteen years old, the sweet princess was so happy and contented that she felt that life was wonderful. By now she was the fairest in all the land and she loved to be out in the sunshine on the castle lawn. Here, she walked with her faithful dog and watched people working and children playing.

7. On that day, however, she happened to take more notice than usual of a tall tower on the far side of the lawn. "Why is it that I have never been able to get to that tower?" she wondered to herself. "It seems strange, too, that nobody ever seems to go there and that there is never a sign of people living in it."



8. Feeling curious, she made up her mind to go and see what went on inside that strange tower. With a quick glance round to make sure that nobody was staring at her, she hurried across the lawn, through a twisting pathway to a door. "And there's a key in the door," she thought. "Dare I take a peek inside?"



9. Her hand trembled a little as she tried the key. It turned quite easily and she peeped into the tower. "What a strange place—it's so musty and damp," she said. "But there must be somebody who uses it, or else there would not be a key to the door." A little nervous, but even more curious, she went in.

The Sleeping Princess



1. With her heart beating a little faster, the young princess started to climb the steps of the winding stairs inside the tower. "It's so cold and damp and dark," she said to herself, with a shiver. "But I am so curious to find out if anyone lives here, that I feel I must go on and see for myself."



2. When she reached the top of the steps, she found herself facing a great door made of solid oak. In the lock was a large key. The princess looked at it. She put out her hand and then drew it back. "Shall I? Shall I turn the key?" she wondered. "I have a strange feeling that I am meant to open the door."



3. She took a deep breath, plucked up her courage and turned the key. Slowly the heavy door opened and, full of curiosity, she peeped inside the room beyond. In it was a strange woman, sitting all alone, working at a sort of spinning-wheel machine. "What are you doing?" asked the princess. "What are you making?"

4. "Come in, my dear," said the woman (but as you will have already guessed, she was really the wicked Ice Fairy). "It's so seldom that I get a pretty visitor like yourself. What you see me doing is something called spinning. I make long strands of fine silk, which can then be used to make lovely dresses."



5. "Oh, how very clever," said the princess. "I never knew that such a thing could be made at home. I think that my mother, the Queen, always goes to another country to buy the silks and cottons she needs for making dresses." The princess did not know that spinning-wheels were not allowed in the Kingdom on the special orders of the King himself.



6. "Would you like some silk that I have just spun? It's such a pretty colour, my dear," said the Ice Fairy, holding out the spindle of silk. She smiled sweetly, but the black cat on her shoulder showed the true feelings of her mistress by giving a little snarl. The princess was delighted. "Thank you very much," she said. "You are so very sweet and kind."



7. Holding the spindle of silk, the princess hurried to the stairs, and lightly tripped down them, feeling very happy. "There's just one thing, my dear," the Ice Fairy called out from the top of the stairs. "Please do not tell anyone that I have given you some of my silk. Let us keep it a secret between ourselves." "Of course," said the princess, "I will not say a word about it."



8. As she left the door of the tall tower and stepped out into the sunshine, she saw people scurrying about all over the place. One of them was her father, the King. "We have been looking everywhere for you, my dear," he said. "We were worried about you." "There is no need to worry any more, father," the princess smiled, keeping the spindle well hidden.



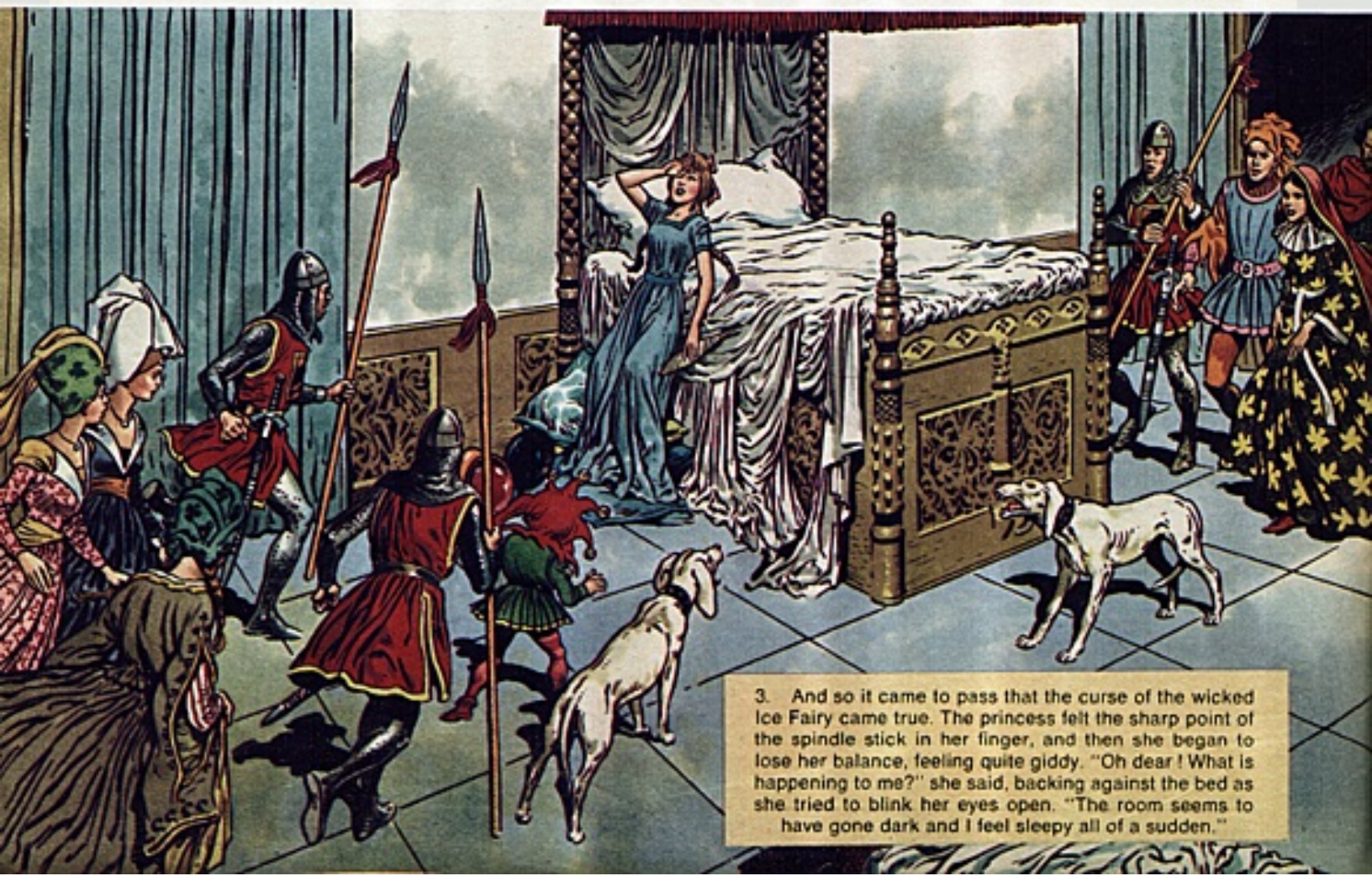
The Sleeping Princess



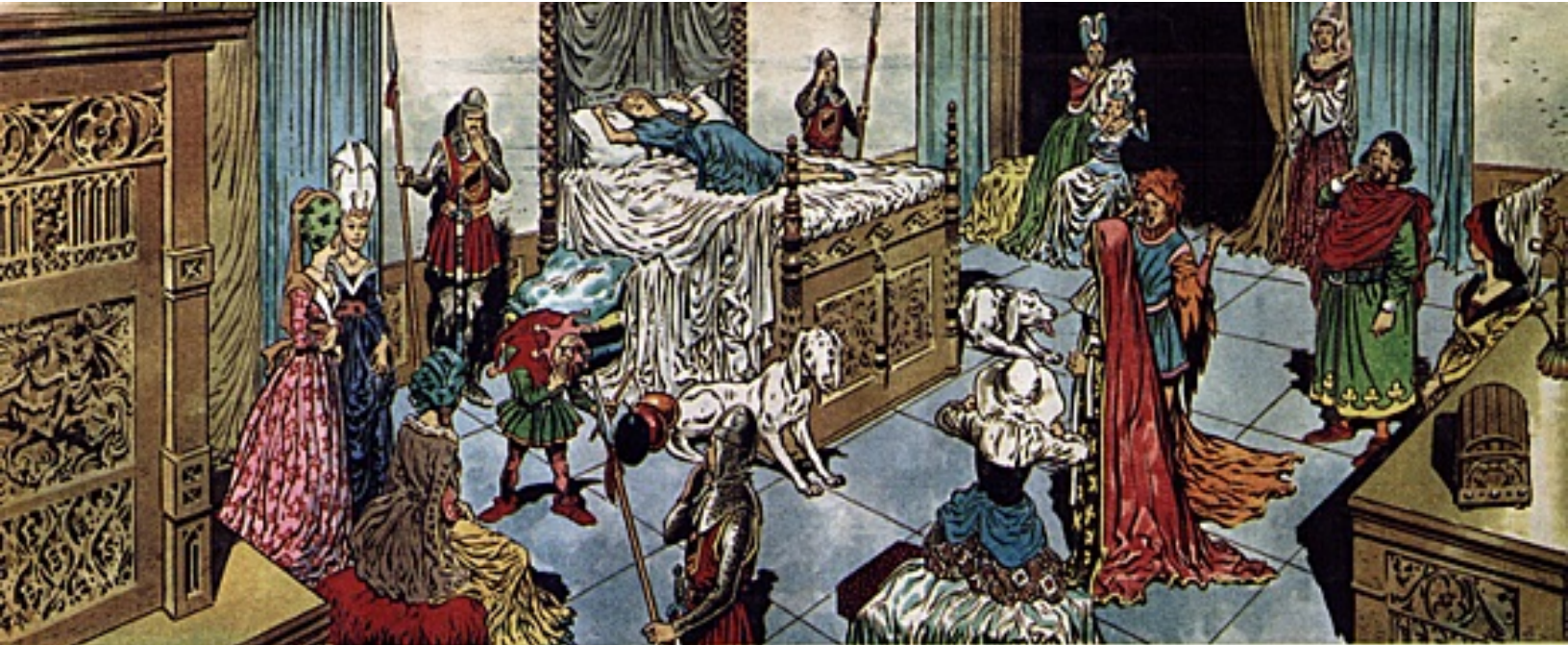
1. When she slipped quietly away to her bedroom in the Royal Palace, the princess took a closer, excited look at the gift, which the strange old lady in the tower had given her. "She called this a spindle, but I have never seen one before," she said.



2. The princess did not know, of course, that all spinning-wheels were banned in the Kingdom because the wicked Ice Fairy had wished an evil spell that one day she would prick her finger on a spindle and fall asleep. "Oo—my finger!" she suddenly gasped.



3. And so it came to pass that the curse of the wicked Ice Fairy came true. The princess felt the sharp point of the spindle stick in her finger, and then she began to lose her balance, feeling quite giddy. "Oh dear! What is happening to me?" she said, backing against the bed as she tried to blink her eyes open. "The room seems to have gone dark and I feel sleepy all of a sudden."



4. The dogs barked and there was a clatter as a crowd of people rushed into the room. But before they could reach the princess, she lay on the soft bed and went to sleep.

5. Several tried to get to her, but each of them stopped in mid-stride. All present in the room began to yawn, even the dogs, and their feet seemed as though glued to the floor.



6. In the throne-room, the King and Queen were talking to the Prime Minister, when a feeling of tiredness came over them. "Pardon me," the Minister mumbled. "I cannot keep my eyes open."



7. It was the same all over the Palace, even in the kitchens, where the Royal cooks and serving-maids were on the point of preparing lunch. They halted what they were doing and fell asleep.

8. Even the young minstrel boy, who played sweet and soothing music, had never soothed anyone off to sleep as quickly as this. The wicked magic was working and the whole Palace became quiet.

The Sleeping Princess



1. When the Princess pricked her finger on the point of a spinning-wheel spindle, as the wicked Ice Fairy had foretold she would, she fell into a deep sleep, and everybody inside the splendid castle also fell fast asleep—the King and Queen, the Ministers, the servants, the cooks, the window-cleaners and the sweepers of the Royal rooms. Outside it was just the same. Soldiers slept at their sentry posts, and birds in the trees perched on branches with their eyes closed, never giving the slightest tweet. It was now a Sleeping Castle.



2. In the beautiful Palace gardens, nothing moved. There was not a breath of wind to rustle the leaves of the trees or the petals of the lovely red roses. They stayed perfectly still. The bumble bees no longer buzzed, the ants did not scurry around any more, no crickets chirped or grasshoppers hopped.



3. Time went by, and a hundred years later, the Sleeping Castle was surrounded by a thick hedge of tangled briars, trees, bushes and ferns. There was no way through it. The rabbits, on the outside, had long since given up trying, though they scampered about, playing hide-and-seek among the thick roots.



4. Then, one day, a handsome Prince passed that way, riding a proud dappled-grey horse. He had come from a Kingdom many miles away, and his two hunting dogs trotted along beside him. "We shall not go much farther, my faithful friends," he said to his dogs. "There are no signs of any deer in these parts. It seems to be a strangely empty place with no life at all."



5. On top of a hill, he halted and stood up in the stirrups. The turrets of the Sleeping Castle had caught his eye. "Tell me, what is that place?" he asked a passing woodsman. "Why is it surrounded by a thick hedge of briars and thorns?" "It is said that inside there is a sleeping Princess, good sir," replied the woodsman. "She can be wakened by a Prince's kiss."



6. "Then I shall be the Prince to waken her," the handsome young hunter cried. At full gallop he rode towards the thick barrier and searched the whole circle of it—but there was no way in. The Sleeping Castle was far too well protected.



7. Not giving up hope, the Prince got down from his horse and began to hack at the tangled forest of thorny branches and hanging vines. It was a tremendous task and such a tiring one that the Prince wondered if he had the strength to do it.

The Sleeping Princess



1. A whole hundred years had passed since the princess pricked her finger on a spinning-wheel spindle and fell into a deep sleep. During that time, the castle and all the people in it had gone to sleep, too—and here we have a picture of the Sleeping Castle, surrounded by a tangled forest of thick thorn-bushes and trees. All is quiet. Not even a singing bird flies over the castle. That was how the prince found it, but upon being told by a woodsman about the wicked spell put on the Princess by the Ice Fairy, he set about the task of hacking his way through the thick barrier.



2. It took him many hours. His arm began to ache and the sharp edge of the sword became blunt through chopping at the thick thorn branches—but at last, with a sigh of relief, he managed to reach the castle walls. "How very strange," he gasped. "The two men-at-arms who guard the drawbridge are asleep!"

3. He called to the two soldiers, but they leaned upon their lances and made no answer. He nudged them, but they did not move or blink an eyelid. Nor did the two guard-dogs, sprawled on the ground beside them, give even the slightest quiver of their ears when the Prince spoke and commanded them to get up.



4. An even more amazing sight was waiting for the Prince when he stepped through the drawbridge gate into the courtyard of the Sleeping Castle. A palace knight, about to mount his horse when sleep overtook him, was balanced with one foot in the stirrup of his sleeping horse. "Poor fellow," said the Prince. "He must have been on the point of going on a riding trip with his fair lady, for there she sits upon her own horse, with a sleeping groom holding the reins."



5. Wondering what he might see next, the Prince went on towards a flight of steps leading into the castle. And there on the bottom of the steps he saw a lute-player, with his fingers still on the strings of his instrument, and his smiling mouth still slightly open as he sang to a sleeping knight and two ladies.

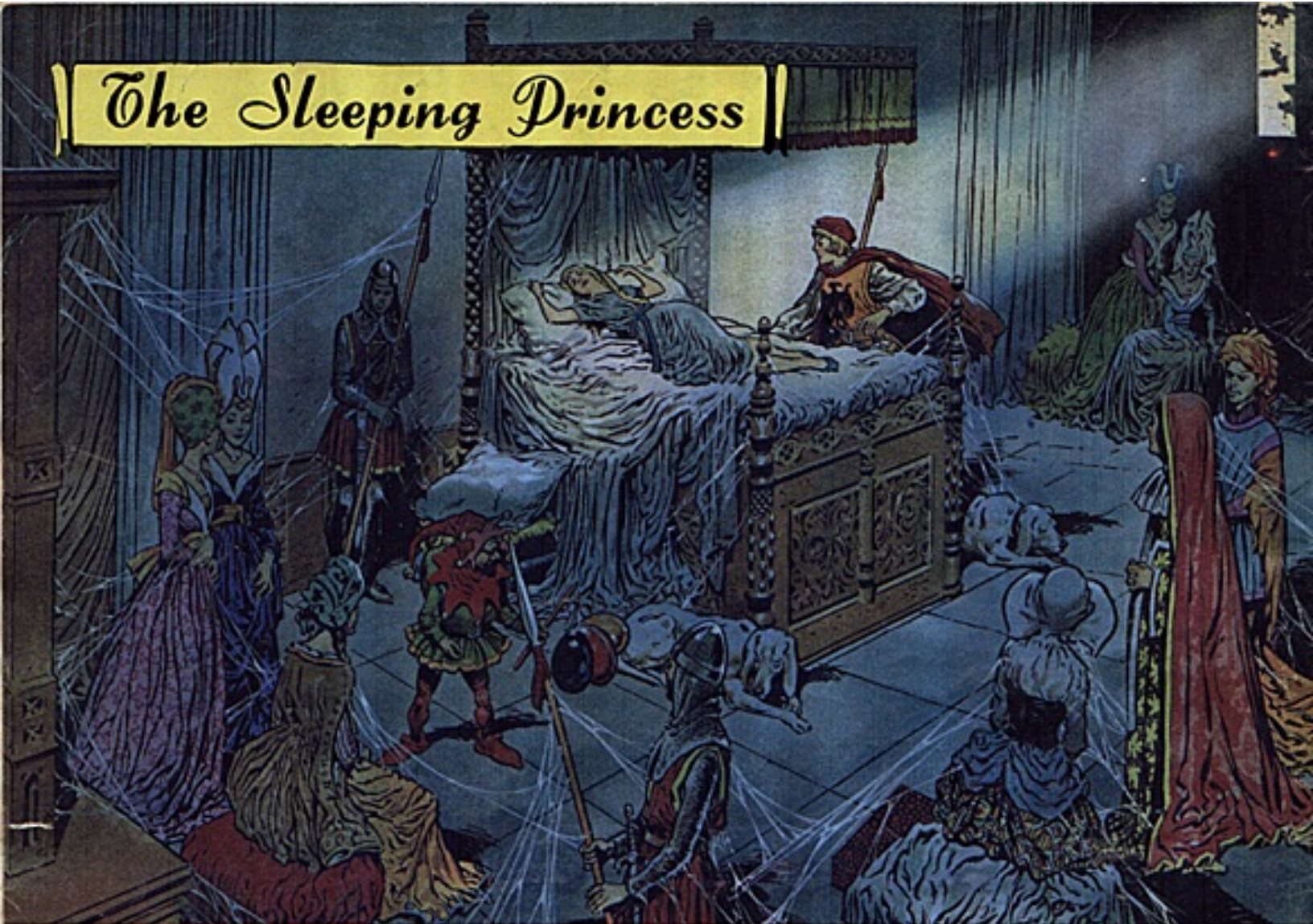


6. "The woodsman was right," said the Prince, as he looked around inside. "A sleeping spell has been cast over the whole place." His footsteps made a clatter as he walked across the floor of the Great Hall of the castle—but no sound came from the knights and ladies seated at a feast, with sleeping servers, caught in the act of serving food.



7. "But where shall I find the Sleeping Princess?" wondered the Prince. He noticed a spiral staircase and started to walk up it, with his heart beating faster and faster.

The Sleeping Princess



1. The heart of the young Prince was thumping with excitement, as he hurried up the spiral staircase of the Sleeping Castle. He entered a large bedroom, and there he saw even more people who did not move, having gone to sleep a hundred years ago.

2. A shaft of sunlight streamed in through a window, and in the golden light of this, the Prince saw the Sleeping Princess. "How sweet and peaceful she looks," thought the Prince. "She has life-like beauty, and yet she does not seem to breathe."



3. "The woodsman told me that she was under a wicked magic spell, and yet could be awakened by a kiss," went on the Prince. "And who could resist giving such a lovely lady a kiss?" He bent over and kissed her on the lips.



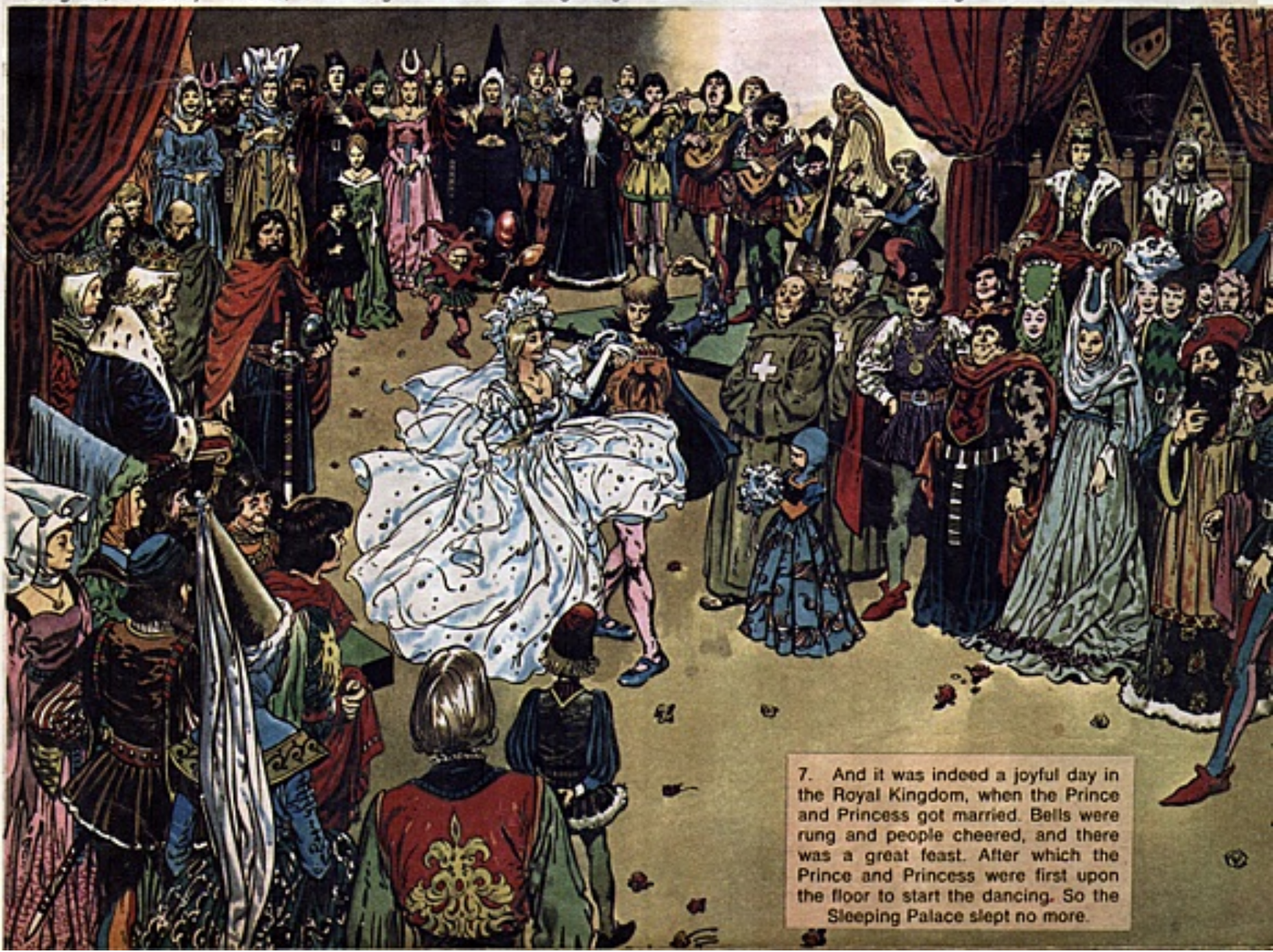
4. At once everything changed. The big room became warmer and brighter. The dust and cobwebs disappeared and, as the Prince stepped back, the Sleeping Princess moved and sat up. "What has happened?" she asked. "I feel as if I have had the longest sleep in my whole life." "You have, good lady," said the Prince. "You have been asleep for exactly a hundred years." One by one the palace servants, and even the dogs, woke up.



5. In the throne-room the same happened. Their Majesties the King and Queen were in the middle of a talk with the Chief Minister when they all went suddenly to sleep, and now they woke up and started talking again. "As I was saying, Your Majesty," the Chief Minister said, blinking his eyes and giving a little yawn, "your daughter, the lovely Princess, is now eighteen and old enough to get married."



6. Once again it was a happy Royal Palace, all except for one person—the wicked Ice Fairy. It was she who had cast the sleeping spell, which had now been broken. Angrily shaking her fist, she flew away on her magic broomstick.



7. And it was indeed a joyful day in the Royal Kingdom, when the Prince and Princess got married. Bells were rung and people cheered, and there was a great feast. After which the Prince and Princess were first upon the floor to start the dancing. So the Sleeping Palace slept no more.

Jesús Blasco

*The
Water
Babies*



Once Upon a Time

31 Jan. 1970 #51 - 18 Apr. 1970 #62

The Water Babies

Once upon a time, many years ago, there was a little chimney sweep named Tom. In the town where Tom lived there were plenty of chimneys to be swept. It was Tom's job to go climbing up inside them to loosen the soot and sweep it down for his grumpy master, Mr. Grimes, to collect.



1. Poor little Tom cried a lot when he had to climb into the dark chimneys, rubbing his knees and elbows raw and getting soot into his eyes. He also cried a lot when Mr. Grimes beat him, which was very often. He had never been taught to read or write or say his prayers and never washed himself at all. One morning, very early, Mr. Grimes set off on his donkey to sweep the chimneys of Harthover House, a large house out in the country. Tom walked behind, carrying the load of sweep's brushes.



2. Tom had never been so far out into the country before, and he stared and stared at the things around him. He longed to go into the fields and pick daisies, but Mr. Grimes would have none of that. "Hurry along, slowcoach," he growled, and puffed at his pipe. Soon they came up with a gipsy woman, limping along as if she was tired and footsore. She was a pretty woman with dark hair.

3. Mr. Grimes called out to her: "This is a hard road indeed. Will you get up, lass, and ride behind me on my donkey?" The gipsy woman shook her head. "No, thank you," she answered. "I'd sooner walk with your little lad." "Please yourself," growled Grimes. "Keep on walking if you want to." So the gipsy walked with Tom and talked to him about the sea, which Tom had never seen.



4. At last they came to a stream and Grimes stopped. Then without a word he got off his donkey and began ducking his ugly head in the stream—and very dirty he made it. Tom's eyes opened wide when he saw Mr. Grimes actually washing himself. "Why, master, I never saw you do that before," he said. "I wish I might dip my head in too, to make myself cooler."



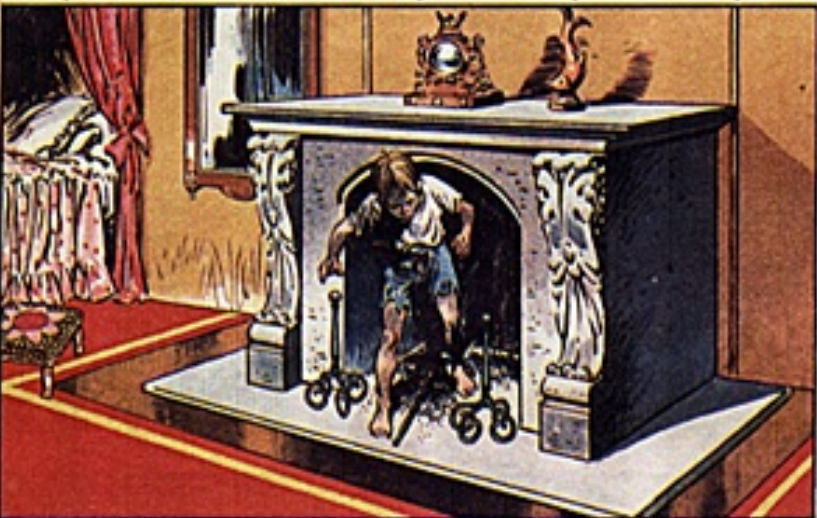
5. "Get along with you," said Grimes, very sulky. "What do you want with washing yourself?" He made a grab at Tom to beat him, but the gipsy woman stopped him. "Are you not ashamed of yourself, Thomas Grimes?" she asked and it surprised Grimes to hear that she spoke his name. "Stop that at once. I have only one thing more to say to you both. Those that wish to be clean, clean they will be!"



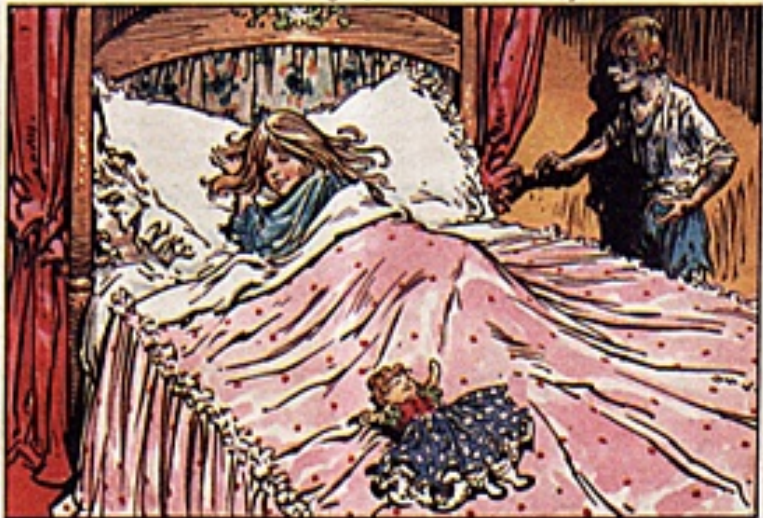
6. She turned away and seemed to disappear. Mr. Grimes looked around and so did Tom, not knowing where she had gone. Grimes, however, got back on his donkey and went on towards Harthover House. As they came to it and walked up a great avenue, bordered by trees and bushes, Tom saw a deer and was puzzled by a strange murmuring noise among the flowers. "They're bees," said Grimes. "They make honey. Now hold your noise."



7. They came to the great house itself and as soon as they were inside, the work of chimney sweeping began. Tom felt his heart sink, for he knew that there would be many chimneys to do and it would take all day. "Get on with it then," growled Grimes, and he gave Tom a kick to start him climbing up the first chimney.



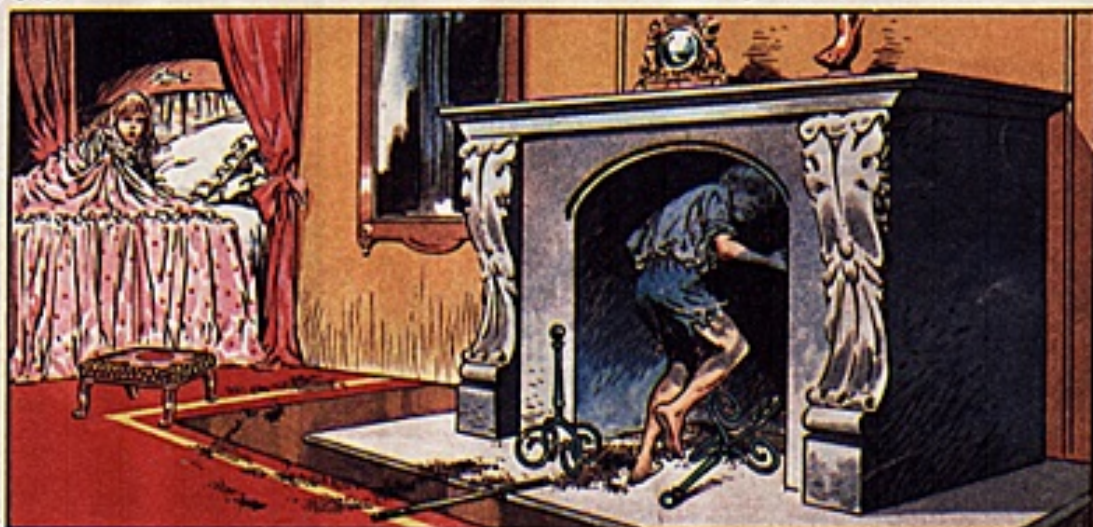
8. Tom swept many chimneys that day—so many that he lost all count of them. They were large and crooked chimneys, running into one another so that Tom lost his way in them in the pitch darkness. In the end he came down a wrong chimney and found himself standing in a room, the like of which he had never seen in his life before. It was a bedroom and indeed a very pretty one.



9. Tom looked around. In a corner of the room he noticed a washing stand with jugs and basins and soap and towels. "She must be a very dirty lady who lives in here to need so much washing," thought Tom. Then he looked towards the bed and saw the "dirty" lady and held his breath in astonishment. It was a girl—the most beautiful girl he had ever seen.



10. Still looking around, Tom suddenly caught sight of the dirtiest little boy in all the world. "How did that black-faced rascal get in here?" he asked. Then he saw that he was looking into a mirror and the dirty-faced little imp was himself.



11. Poor Tom felt so ashamed. "Am I really like that, all soot-covered and dirty?" he gasped. "I should not be here in such a lovely clean bedroom. I must get back to Mr. Grimes and never come here again." Tom darted to the big fireplace and ducked his head to go up the wide chimney. But as he did so, his foot caught one of the fire-irons and it fell with a loud clatter, which woke the beautiful girl at once. Seeing a black-faced imp and becoming frightened, she gave a loud cry. "Help! There is someone in my room!"

The Water Babies



1. It was the clatter of fire-irons tumbling over in the hearth that woke up the sleeping girl and she gave a loud scream. "Help! There is someone in my room—a horrid boy, all dirty and black and covered in soot," she shouted, and this brought her nurse hurrying into the room. "I'll deal with the young rascal, Ellie," said the nurse. Poor Tom was so scared that he dodged away from the fireplace and made for the window. All he wanted to do was to get out.



2. Luckily for Tom, a tall tree grew just outside the window. He was a quick-moving little lad with no fear of heights and he made a daring jump to reach the tree-trunk. He could hear the noise in the bedroom, with the old nurse screeching for help at the top of her voice. "They must not catch me," thought Tom, as he slid down the tree, not caring that the rough trunk scratched the inside of his legs. "They'd put me in prison."



3. As he reached the ground, the shouting was louder and it dinned in Tom's head. "There he is," exclaimed the gardener. "Catch him!" "Don't let him get away," said the butler. "He's got to be punished." "No, thank you," panted Tom, speeding away across the lawn. "My master, Mr. Grimes, has given me all the punishment I need in the past."



4. With tears in his eyes, Tom ran through some bushes, not really looking where he was going. He banged into a brick wall—and a brick wall makes you see all manner of beautiful stars. They go in a split second, but the pain which comes after them does not. Tom hurt his head, but he was a brave boy, so over the wall he went like squirrel. He guessed that he would find more open country outside.



5. The first thing Tom did was to take a sharp turn to the right, hoping to deceive those who were chasing him. In that the cunning little fellow succeeded very well. The shouts and sounds of running died away behind him and only a fox saw the lad hurrying through the bushes. The fox felt sorry for Tom, for it knew only too well what it was like to be hunted.



6. By now the little chimney-sweep was right away into thick heather and climbing up a slope, jogging along at a steady pace, able to stare at the new world he was in. He saw lizards and thought they were snakes that would sting him. But they were as frightened as he was and scurried away. Next, Tom had a big fright. As he hurried through the heather something went off in his face with a

most horrid noise—whirr-pool-pool-cock-cock-kick! For a moment Tom shut his eyes, thinking that the ground had blown up. When he opened his eyes, it was only an old cock pheasant, which had been lying in the heather and had jumped up with the noise of an express train when Tom nearly trod on it. Away into the sky it soared with whirring wings.



7. Tom went on and on, more slowly now, for he was stumbling over rough ground, which hurt his bare toes. He had run a long way and the sun was as hot as an oven and everything around seemed to be quivering in the glare of it. Tom's head spun round with the heat. "What a big place the world is," he thought. From the top of a cliff he could see down to a cottage in a deep, green valley below.



8. Beside the cottage ran a cool-looking stream. Tom felt hot and dizzy and knew that, somehow or other, he must get down to it. Inside his head he thought he could hear the ringing of bells and he was almost too tired to make the effort to climb down the steep slope. "There will be people down there," he thought. "Perhaps someone will give me a bite to eat."



9. At last Tom got to the bottom of the slope. The sun was burning, yet he felt chilled all over. He was quite empty and yet he felt quite sick. In answer to Tom's knock on the door came the nicest old woman he had ever seen, but she raised her hands in horror at the sight of him. "A chimney-sweep?" she said. "Away with you. I'll have no grubby sweeps here." "Water!" said Tom, quite faint. "Water?" said the woman. "There's plenty for you in the stream."



10. Tom sank down on the ground and laid back against the wall. Then he asked: "Is it Sunday? I hear church bells ringing in my head." "Bless your pretty heart," said the old lady. "You're a real sick child. Water would be bad for you in the state you're in. I know what might be best for you—a drink of good, warm milk."

The Water Babies



Tom, the brave little chimney-sweep, runs away when people chase him out of Harthover house, where he accidentally climbs down the wrong chimney into the bedroom of a pretty girl named Ellie. Tired out and not feeling very well, Tom comes to an old lady's cottage by a stream.

1. The old lady toddled off and brought Tom a cup of cool milk and a bit of bread. "Bless your pretty heart, you're a real sick child," she said. Tom drank the milk straight off. "Eat the bread," said the old lady. "I can't," answered Tom. "Is it Sunday? I hear the church bells ringing so in my head." "No, it isn't Sunday," said the old lady kindly. "Come with me." Tom tried to get up, but was so tired and giddy that she had to help him and lead him towards an outhouse.



2. There she laid Tom down on some soft sweet hay, put an old rug over him and said she would come to him in an hour's time. "I have a school for little children here," she explained, "but I have only one more lesson and when that is over, I will come and see if you are better." She tip-toed out, expecting Tom to fall into a deep, tired sleep.



3. But Tom was restless. He turned and tossed and felt so hot all over that he longed to get into the stream to cool himself. He did fall half asleep and dreamt that he heard the beautiful girl in the bedroom of the big house crying to him, "Oh, you're so dirty! Go and be washed and get clean!"



4. There were noises in his head and he heard church bells ringing so loudly that he was sure it must be Sunday, in spite of what the old lady had said. Tom thought that he would like to go to church, but first he must go to the river and wash the soot and dirt off himself. Poor Tom was in such a fever that he did not know what he was doing.



5. He went on to the bank of the stream, lay down on the grass and looked into the clear water. Every pebble on the bottom looked bright and clean and little fish darted about in fright at the sight of his black face. Tom dipped his hand in and found it oh, so cool. "I will be a fish. I will swim in the water. I must be clean!" he told himself. "If only I can get into the water I know that I would be happy."



6. Tom pulled off all his clothes in such haste that he tore some of them, which was easy enough with such ragged old things. He put his poor sore feet into the water and then his legs. The farther he went in, the more the church bells rang in his head. "Ah," said Tom. "I must be quick and wash myself. The bells are ringing loud now and they will stop soon and then the church door will be shut and I won't get in."



7. During all this time Tom never noticed the pretty gypsy woman, who had spoken to him and Mr. Grimes on the way to clean the chimneys at Harthover House. But she had been watching him all the time and when Tom sank down in the cool water of the stream, she smiled to herself. "Those who wish to be clean WILL be clean," she murmured, quietly.



8. Slipping off her shawl, the gypsy woman stepped down into the cool, clear water and glided gently down to the bottom. As she did so, she seemed to change in a magical sort of way. Her gypsy clothes changed to a pretty dress of long, flowing silk. Bright-coloured shells made lovely ear-rings, a necklace and bracelets.

9. The fish seemed to know her, for they were not startled as she floated through the water. "Queen of the water baby fairies, where have you been?" asked one fish. "I have been looking after little children and doing all I can to help those who cannot help themselves," she replied. "I have something to tell my water babies."



10. All the little water baby fairies of the stream came along to greet her, for she was the Queen of them all. "I have brought you a new little brother," she said. "But he must not see you or know you are here. He is a wild young thing and, until he knows our ways, you must not play with him or speak to him, or let him see you — but you must keep him 'rom being harmed." The water baby fairies were sad but always did what they were told.



11. Tom, of course, never saw nor heard any of this. As he sank down through the water he fell fast asleep, into the quietest, sunniest, cosiest sleep that he had ever known in the whole of his life.

The Water Babies

Tom, the brave little chimney-sweep, is ill-treated by his grumpy master, Mr. Grimes, and runs away from Harthover House. He bangs his head and is so feverish that he does not really know what he is doing when he goes into a stream and sinks down into the water.



1. Now comes the most wonderful part of this wonderful story. When Tom woke up he found himself swimming about in the stream, much smaller than he had been before and having round his neck a set of gills, which he mistook for a lace frill until he pulled at it and hurt himself. He found he could breathe even in the water and made up his mind that they were part of his new self and best left alone. Tom was now amphibious, which means he could live in or out of water.



2. What was better still, was that he was clean for the first time in his life. He did not remember ever having been dirty, or of being hungry, or beaten, or being sent up dark chimneys. Tom was very happy. He had nothing to do now but enjoy himself and look at all the pretty things which are to be seen in a world of clear, cool water.

But Tom, sad to say, was very naughty.

3. He came to a pool full of little trout. He began teasing them and trying to catch them, until they jumped clean out of the water in their fright. He even got on to the back of one of them and had a ride for a few moments until the frightened trout flipped him off and flashed away. He tormented the poor water creatures until they were all afraid and got out of his way.



4. He came to a caddis fly larva, a grub which hopes one day to turn into a caddis fly, but protects itself while waiting by building itself a coat made of tiny sticks, leaves and shells. Tom had never seen a caddis before, and knocked off the sticks and shells to see what was inside. What a shame! No wonder the caddis was angry.



5. Tom swam away and popped his head out of the water, where he saw a most elegant and slender creature with four great wings and big eyes that shone like ten thousand diamonds. "I'm a dragonfly," it said, whirling round the head of a young deer which had come to the water for a drink. "Please don't fly away," said Tom. "I have nobody to play with. If you stay, I promise that I will not try and catch you."



6. But the dragonfly went and it was forgotten in the next few moments, for Tom heard the strangest noise up the stream, a cooing and grunting and whining and squeaking. He looked up and there he saw a sight as strange as the noise—a great brown ball rolling over and over down the stream, seeming to be made of soft brown fur. Yet it was not a ball at all.



7. Tom took the neatest little header into the water and went to see what it was. When he came near, the ball turned out to be four or five otters, rolling, diving, twisting and wrestling in the most charming fashion that was ever seen. When the biggest of them saw Tom, she darted from the rest and cried out sharply, "Quick, children, here is something to eat."



8. Poor Tom slipped down between the water-lily roots as fast as he could. "Come away, children," said the otter in disgust, after taking a closer look at Tom. "It's not worth eating after all. It's only a nasty newt," "I am not a newt," said Tom. "Newts have tails." "I say you are a newt," snapped the mother otter. "You are not fit food for me and my children, so you may stay there till the salmon come and eat you."



9. One evening, about a week later, it grew suddenly dark. Thunder roared and lightning flashed and rain came down as though poured from buckets. Soon the stream rose, churned into foam and rushed down towards the sea, full of beetles and sticks and straws and odds and ends. Among the odds and ends was Tom.



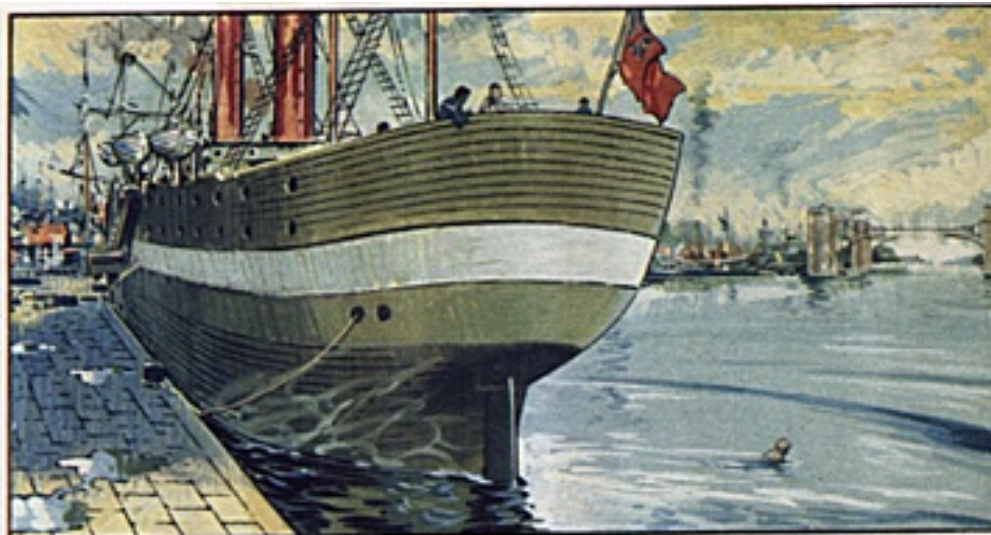
10. By the flashes of lightning, Tom saw a new sight—all the bottom of the stream alive with great eels, hurrying past him so fiercely and wildly that he was quite frightened. As they hurried past, Tom could hear them saying to each other, "We must run, we must run. Down to the sea." "Wait for me," pleaded Tom.



11. But the eels went on and, coming from the other way, Tom saw two big fish, shining silver from head to tail and with grand hooked noses. "Oh, don't hurt me," Tom cried. "Ah," said one of the salmon. "I see what you are, my little dear. I have met creatures like you before and only last night they warned us of nets placed in the river to catch us." "Then there ARE other water babies to play with," said Tom. "How wonderful!"

The Water Babies

Tom, the brave little chimney-sweep, finds himself turned into a water baby. Because he is naughty, the other water babies are not allowed to play with him. Tom tries to find them and swims down a river to the sea . . .



1. Day after day Tom travelled on. He swam near ships and saw sailors on the decks, so he ducked under again, for he was terribly afraid of being caught by the men and turned into a chimney-sweep once more. What Tom did not know was that the water fairies were always near him, shutting the sailors' eyes so that they did not see him. Poor little fellow, it was a weary journey for him. More than once he longed to be back in the upper parts of the stream, playing with the trout, but he did not stop.



2. Tom had always been a brave little lad, who never knew when he was beaten. On and on he went, until he saw, a long way off, a red buoy. Tom had never been to sea before and knew nothing about it. He only knew that the water had turned salty all round him. A change came over him. He felt strong and light. The red buoy was in sight, dancing in the open sea, and to the buoy he was determined to go as fast as he could.



3. Tom did not care that the tide was against him. He passed great shoals of fish called bass and mullet, leaping and rushing after the shrimps, but he took no notice of them and they took no notice of him, for they were so busy chasing after their food. Most living things in the sea feed on other living things, you know.



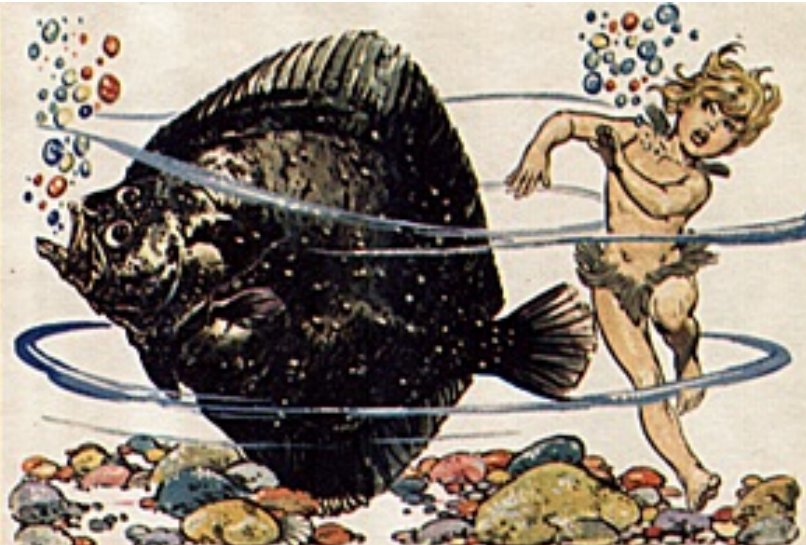
4. Once he came face to face with a great black shining seal. "How do you do, sir," said Tom. "What a beautiful place the sea is." The old seal looked at him with his soft, sleepy eyes. "Good day to you, my little man," he said. "Are you looking for your brothers and sisters? I passed them all at play outside." "Did you?" said Tom.



5. He thanked the seal very much. "Now I shall have someone to play with at last," said Tom. He swam to the buoy and got up on it, quite out of breath. He sat and looked around for water babies, but there were none to be seen. Tom stared and stared all round him. He saw seagulls hovering over him like huge white dragonflies. If only he could have seen a water baby, he would have been very, very happy.



6. After a while he jumped off the buoy and swam around in search of the water babies, but all in vain. Sometimes he thought he heard them laughing, but it was only the laughter of the rippling sea. Then sometimes he thought he saw them on the bottom, but it was only white and pink sea shells. Once, he was sure he had found one, for he saw two bright eyes peeping at him out of the sand.



7. Tom began to scrape away the sand, saying: "Don't hide. I do want someone to play with so much." Out jumped a great flatfish and it flopped away along the bottom, almost knocking poor Tom over. "How dare you disturb me, you horrid boy?" said the fish. "I lie in the sand with only my eyes showing so that others will not see me and now you have spoilt my rest. Please go away!"

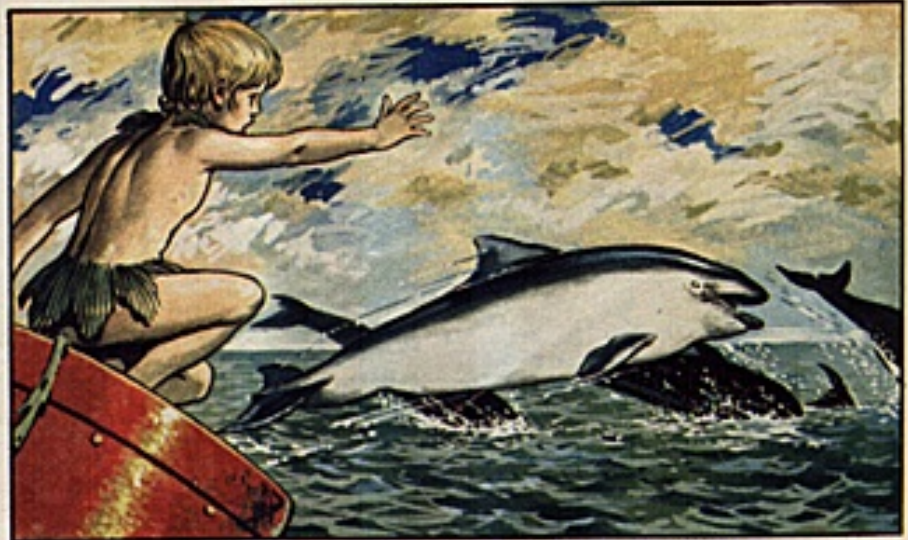


8. Poor Tom climbed back on the buoy and cried salt tears from sheer disappointment because he had found no water babies to play with. He sat upon the buoy for many long days, looking out to sea and wondering when the other water babies would come, and yet they never came. It seemed hard to him to have come all this way and faced so many dangers—and yet to find no other water babies.

9. He began to ask all the strange things which came in from the outside sea if they had seen any. Some said "Yes," and some said nothing at all. He asked the bass and mullet, but they were greedy fish and so intent on catching shrimps to eat that they did not care to answer him a word. Tom saw all these sea creatures passing by, but no water babies. He grew sadder and sadder.



10. Then one day came a great lazy sunfish and when Tom questioned him he answered in a squeaky voice, "Water babies? I'm sure I don't know. I've lost my own way. Don't talk to me." And he swam away.



11. Next there came a shoal of porpoises, rolling as they went by and all quite smooth and shiny, because the water fairies polish them every morning. Tom took courage to speak to them, but all they answered was "Hush, hush, hush," as they swished through the water. Poor Tom! He could not find a water baby.

The Water Babies



Tom, the brave little chimney sweep, becomes a water baby. He swims out to sea to try and find some other water babies to play with but he does not find any. They have been told by their Fairy Queen to keep out of sight until Tom has learned not to be naughty . . .

1. Tom found a crayfish to talk to. He had never seen one before and thought it a most curious creature. He asked him about the water babies. "Yes," the crayfish told him, "I have seen them often but don't think much of them. They are rather meddlesome little creatures, always going around helping fish and shells which get into trouble. I have lived long enough to take care of myself." The crayfish was a conceited fellow, but Tom was so lonely that he talked to him for many hours a day.



2. About this time there happened to Tom a very strange and important adventure. You will not have forgotten the little girl in the bedroom of the big house, who was the cause of Tom being forced to run away and become a water baby. Her name was Ellie. One day she came to the shore with a very wise old professor, who knew all about the little sea-creatures and caught them in a net to take home and look at later.



3. "I like playing with children best," said Ellie, who was a little bored. "There are babies on land, so why are there no water babies?" "Because there aren't," replied the professor quite sharply. A little angry with Ellie, he groped under some weeds with his net—and caught poor Tom!



4. He lifted out the net with Tom inside it. "Dear me," gasped the professor, as he lifted Tom out of the net. "It's a pink thing and it has hands. It actually has eyes, too. It must be a cephalopod." In case you do not know, a cephalopod is the name given to such things as oysters, snails and limpets. Tom did not like to be called names like that. "No, I'm not," he cried as loud as he could.



5. "It's a water baby," said Ellie. "Water fiddlesticks, my girl," said the professor. Tom had been in a most horrible fright all the while. He was terrified that the man might put clothes on him and make a dirty little chimney sweep of him again. When the professor poked him it was more than he could bear, so he bit his finger hard. "Oh, yah!" cried the professor.



6. He let go of Tom, who dropped into the water and swam off. "It WAS a water baby and I heard it speak," said Ellie. "Oh dear, now it's gone." She tried to catch Tom, but she was too late. What was worse, as she jumped off a rock she slipped and fell some six feet. Before the professor could grab her, Ellie hit her head on a rock and lay quite still.



7. The professor picked Ellie up and tried to waken her, calling to her and crying over her, for he loved her very much. She would not waken at all, so he took her up in his arms and carried her home. The professor knew that he should have agreed with Ellie, admitting his mistake. He should have said, "Yes, Ellie, it seems that there is such a thing as a water baby."



8. Little Ellie was put to bed and they tried to make her well again, but all she did was to wake up now and then and call out about the water baby. Nobody knew what she meant. The doctors were puzzled about it, but the professor did not say, for he was too ashamed to tell. Poor Ellie! She grew paler and paler and weaker and weaker and seemed to think of nothing but water babies.

9. After a week, one moonlight night, the fairies sent for Ellie. Two of them came to the house and they flew with Ellie out of the window. Very gently they carried her over the land and sea and up through the clouds until they disappeared from sight. Nobody heard of Ellie, or saw anything of her, for a long time after that. But in the meantime, what was happening to our little Tom?



10. He came one day to a sort of wicker basket and inside it he saw his old friend the crayfish. "Have you been naughty? Have they put you in prison?" asked Tom. The crayfish told him that he had climbed in after a bit of dead fish and could not get out. Tom looked at the trap. Being a lot cleverer than the crayfish, he could see how to get him out. "Thank you," said the crayfish. "You are really most kind."



11. A few minutes later there happened a most wonderful thing. Tom had not left the crayfish for more than five minutes when he came upon a real live water baby. Kneeling on the beach, doing something to a piece of rock. When it saw Tom, it said, "Why, you are a NEW water baby." "I have been looking for you so long and been so lonely," said Tom, running to it.

The Water Babies

Tom, the brave little chimney-sweep, becomes a water baby. He searches the sea for other water babies, who have been told by their Fairy Queen to keep out of sight until Tom loses his rather naughty ways. When Tom is kind to a crayfish and helps it to escape from a trap he meets a water baby . . .



1. At last Tom had found a water baby. He had been searching for one for so long and had been so lonely that he could scarcely believe it. Yet there it was—a real live water baby, sitting on the white sand, very busy doing something to a little pointed rock. When it saw Tom, it looked up and smiled. "You can help me with this poor little rock," it said. "It lost its seaweed in a storm and now I must plant some more on it and make it the prettiest little rock on the sea shore."



2. When this had been done, the tide began to turn and Tom heard all the other water babies coming, laughing and singing and shouting and romping. When they reached the shore, they became very busy. "Now then," said one, "we must mend all the broken seaweed and plant all the shells again in the sand and nobody will see where the ugly storm swept in last week." The water babies come inshore after every storm to tidy up the beaches, you know.



3. Tom watched them and waited for them to notice him. When they found that he was a new water baby they hugged and kissed him, then put him in the middle and danced round him on the sand. There was nobody happier than poor Tom. They sang and shouted and the noise they made was just like rippling water. Tom felt very proud and pleased.



4. The water babies were all the little children whom the good fairies had taken, because they had been very ill or had cruel mothers and fathers, who would not look after them and see they came to no harm. "Now we must go home," they said, and they swam away under the sea, with Tom happily following behind them.



5. Do you know where the home of the water babies is? It is in a place called Saint Brandan's Isle, which stands upon pillars of rock, of many different colours. In the caves beneath the isle live the water babies and other creatures of the sea. To keep the place clean, crabs pick up all the scraps off the sand and eat them.



6. When Tom got there he found more water babies than either he, or you, could count. You might have thought that with so many friends to play with, Tom might have given up all his naughty tricks and left off teasing the poor sea-creatures, but he did not. He thought it was very funny to frighten the crabs and to make them hide in the sand with only the tips of their eyes showing.

7. Naughty little Tom was not content with spoiling the lives of the crabs. He teased the sea anemones, too. He dropped little stones into their open mouths to make them fancy that their dinner was coming, and laughed when they tossed them out, very angry and disappointed. The other children warned him. "Take care what you are doing," they said to him. "Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did is coming."



8. "Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did?" said Tom. "That's a very funny sort of name." "You must be good, or she might punish you," said the other water babies, but Tom never heeded them. He went on playing his naughty tricks, until early one Friday morning. "She's coming today," said the water babies, swimming in great excitement around Tom. "She'll be here in a few minutes and then you will meet Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did."

9. A very tremendous lady she was. When the children saw her they stood in a row, very upright indeed, just as if they were going to be examined by the inspector. She was so ugly that Tom was tempted to make faces at her, but he was a little bit too scared. Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did looked at the children and then began giving them some nice sweets.



10. She gave away sea-toffee and sea-sugarsticks and to the very best children of all she gave sea-ices, which never melt under water. Little Tom watched all these sweets being given away and hoped that his turn would come. At last it did. The lady called him up, held out something in her fingers and popped it in his mouth.

11. Lo and behold, it was a nasty hard pebble! "You are a very cruel woman," said Tom, and he began to cry. "And you a cruel boy, who puts pebbles into sea anemones' mouths to make them fancy they had caught a good dinner," she replied. "As you did to them, so I must do to you. You see, I know all about you, Tom."

The Water Babies

Tom, the brave little chimney sweep, becomes a water baby and after a long search he finds the home of the water babies under the sea. Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did comes to visit them. She gives the other water babies sweets, but Tom only gets a pebble to eat.



1. "You must be done by as you did," said the old lady. "You put stones into the mouths of the sea-anemones to make them think they had caught a good dinner, and that was very naughty." Tom hung down his head and got very red about the ears. "I am very ugly," Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did went on. "I am the ugliest fairy in the world and I shall always be, until people behave as they ought to. Then I shall grow as pretty as my sister, the loveliest fairy in the world. Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by."



2. Later, when it was Sunday, Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by came. She was the sweetest, kindest and most delicious person anyone could wish to see. All the water babies began dancing and clapping their hands at the sight of her. Tom stood staring at them. For the past few days he had been a good boy. He had never frightened one crab or teased the sea-anemones and was really trying to be a well-behaved little water baby.



3. The lovely fairy sat down on a rock and suddenly saw Tom and made all the others stand aside. She took Tom in her arms, kissed him and patted him. Nothing like that had ever happened to Tom in his life before. "Now," said Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by, "will you be a good boy for my sake and tease no more sea animals to please me?"



4. Tom promised and really tried to behave. Every day except on Sunday the ugly fairy, Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did came to give the water babies sweets. Tom had everything he could want—but having nothing to wish for sometimes makes people naughty. After a while this happened to little Tom. He grew so fond of sea sweets that his foolish little head could think of nothing else.

5. He was always longing for more and more. He thought of nothing else but sea bull's-eyes and sea lollipops all day and dreamt of nothing else all night. And you can perhaps guess what happened next. Tom became artful and watched the lady to see where she kept the sweets. He began hiding and sneaking and following her about, pretending to look the other way.



6. At last he found out that she kept the sweets inside a beautiful mother-of-pearl cabinet, hidden away in a deep crack in the rocks. The more he looked at it, the more he longed to go to it. He had not yet learned that it was wrong to be greedy, though when he first found the cabinet he thought of Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did and was a little afraid to open it.



7. But when he opened it and saw all the nice things inside, he thought he would taste only one, which he did. Then he thought he would eat only two and then only three—but soon he began to gobble them down so fast that he did not really taste them. And all the time Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did was watching him. "Ah, you poor little dear," she said. "You are like all the rest."



8. She said it to herself and Tom did not see or hear her. She did not fly at him or question him or frighten him. If she had, she might have tempted him to tell lies and that would have made Tom even worse. But on Sunday the other fairy came—the pretty one who was called Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by. Tom gave a shout of glee and rushed to her at once, wanting to be cuddled.



9. But when he came up, she turned away from him. "I should like to cuddle you, but I cannot," she said. "You are so prickly!" Tom looked at himself. He saw that he was covered all over with prickles. No wonder it had happened. Since eating the sweets, Tom had felt all prickly inside, with naughty tempers, so his body could not help growing prickly, too, on the outside.



10. Nobody would cuddle him now, or play with him or even look at him. What could Tom do but go away and hide in a corner and cry. He was so miserable that he told the ugly fairy about the sweets. "I forgive you," she told him. "But only you can take the prickles away."



11. "How can I do that?" Tom asked. "You must first do something very good," she answered. "Be kind to someone you don't like." Tom thought for a moment. "I don't like my old master, Mr. Grimes," he said. "But I will be kind to him. Where can I find him?" "At the Other-end-of-Nowhere—a long way away," the ugly fairy answered.

The Water Babies

Since becoming a water baby, Tom, the little chimney sweep, had been so naughty and greedy that he became covered in prickles. To get rid of them he decides to do a kind deed and find his cruel old master, Mr. Grimes, who has gone to the Other-end-of-Nowhere . . .

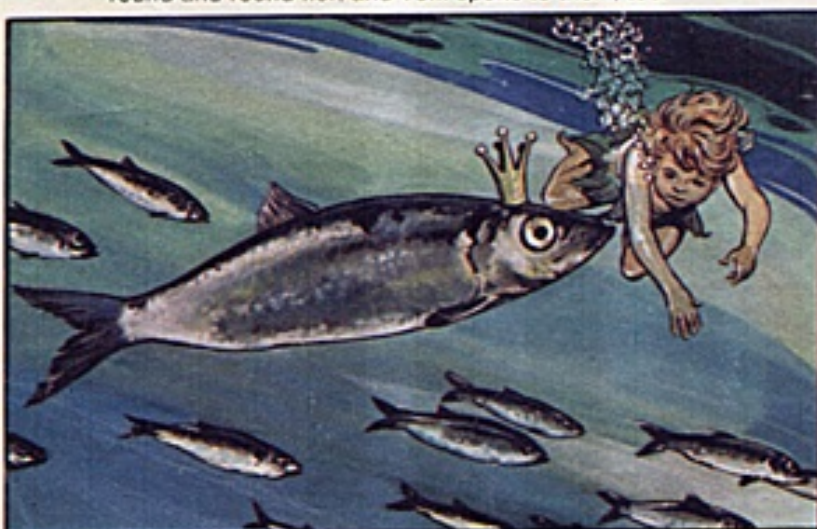


1. Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did told Tom what to do. "You must go farther than the world's end, Tom," she said. "You must go to the Shiny Wall and then to Mother Carey's Haven, where the good whales go when they die. There, Mother Carey will tell you the way to the Other-end-of-Nowhere and there you will find Mr. Grimes." "Oh dear," said Tom, "but I do not know my way to the Shiny Wall." "You must ask all the beasts in the sea and all the birds in the air," said the fairy, as Tom set off.

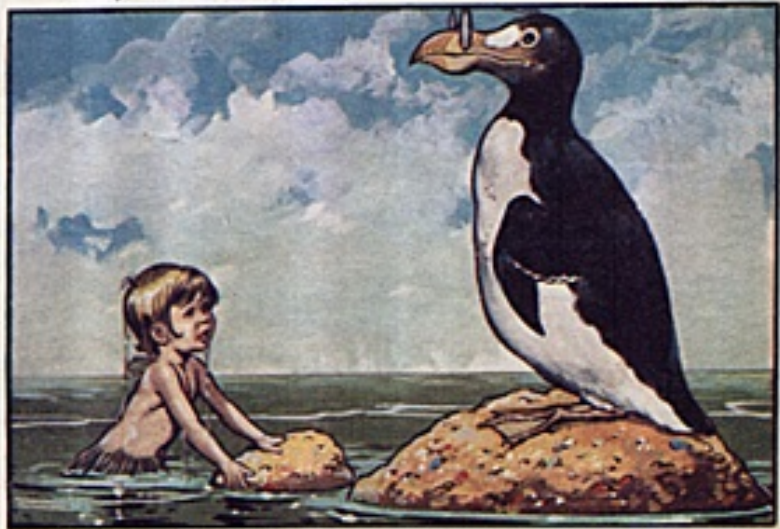


2. On his way, Tom asked all the birds of the air and the beasts in the sea, but none of them knew the way to the Shiny Wall. For why? He was still too far down South. Then he met a ship, far larger than he had ever seen—a gallant ocean steamer with a long cloud of smoke trailing behind. A school of dolphins were running races round and round her, and Tom spoke to them, too.

3. He asked them the way to the Shiny Wall, but they did not know. Tom looked up at the sailors and people on the decks of the ship and he called out to them—but they did not answer, because they could not see him. Only a few special people can see water babies even when they are there. When he got no answer Tom turned away, sad and wondering, and swam towards the North.



4. Tom continued to swim northwards, day after day, till at last he met the King of the Herrings. Tom asked him the way to the Shiny Wall and the King of the Herrings said in reply: "If I were you, young sir, I would go to the All-alone-stone and ask the Gairfowl. She knows a good deal about everything." Tom asked his way to her and the King of the Herrings told him very kindly.



5. Away went Tom for seven days and seven nights, until he came to a small piece of rock that stuck up on its own out of the huge ocean. It was the All-alone-stone and on it sat the Gairfowl, all alone. A very grand old lady she was, very much like a penguin. "Shiny Wall?" she squawked. "Oh dear, my poor old brains are getting quite puzzled. You'd better ask the birds."



6. Then a flock of petrels came along and they are Mother Carey's own chickens. They flitted along like a flock of black swallows, hopping and skipping from wave to wave. Tom called to them and asked the way to the Shiny Wall. "Shiny Wall? Come with us and we will show you," they said.



7. Tom was delighted and he swam after the petrels. "First of all we must go to Allfowlsness and wait there for the great gathering of all the seabirds on their way to their breeding-places in the Northern Isles," they told him. When Tom reached Allfowlsness, the seabirds were gathering there in tens of thousands, quacking and clucking and gabbling and chattering among themselves. "These are the fellows to show you the way to the Shiny Wall," the kind petrels said to Tom.



8. The petrels spoke to some of the biggest seagulls, who are sometimes called molly-cocks. "Come, come, you lazy greedy things," they said. "This young gentleman is going to Mother Carey and wants to know the way to the Shiny Wall." "Greedy we may be, but lazy we are not," said one great fat molly-cock. "We'll help the little lad." So the mollies, who were jolly birds, took Tom the water baby with them. Laughing and joking, they headed towards the cold North, where they would find the Shiny Wall.



9. They flew northwards for many days, to places colder than Tom had ever known before. Being a water baby, he did not feel the cold, but was frightened when he saw packs of icebergs, bunched together in the sea, groaning and growling as they knocked into each other.



10. The good molly-cock carried Tom safely over the icebergs and set him down at the foot of the Shiny Wall. It was a great wall of ice and stretched as far as Tom could see—and so high that nobody could have climbed over. "Where is the gate?" asked Tom. "I don't see it." "There isn't one," said the molly-cock.

11. "No gate?" gasped Tom in surprise. "What am I to do then? I must get to the other side of the Shiny Wall to find Mother Carey." "Then you must dive and swim under the great Shiny Wall, if you have the courage," said the molly-cock. "I have not come this far to be turned back now," said Tom, very bravely.

The Water Babies

Brave little Tom, who was once a naughty little boy who swept chimneys, becomes a water baby. To show how good he has become he sets off on a journey to the Shiny Wall, a great barrier of ice in the sea. He hopes to find the Other-end-of-Nowhere to help his cruel old master, Mr. Grimes . . .



1. There was no gate in the Shiny Wall, so Tom had to dive down to the bottom of the sea and swim under it. He swam for seven days and nights and he was not a bit frightened. Why should he be? He was a brave lad. On his way he swam through shoals of yellow shrimps that hopped and skipped about; and through a crowd of jellyfish of all the colours of the world, that neither hopped nor skipped, but only dawdled and yawned and would not get out of his way. But Tom did not mind them.



2. At last he got to the top of the sea again, to the pool where all the good whales go. A very large pool it was, miles and miles across. All round it rose cliffs of ice. These kept away the storms and clouds, keeping Mother Carey's pool calm from one year's end to another. There the good whales lay on the still sea—blue whales, fin whales and bottle-nosed whales.

3. They were happy, sleepy beasts, waiting for Mother Carey to send for them to make them out of old beasts into new. Tom swam up to the nearest whale and asked the way to Mother Carey. "There she sits, in the middle," said the whale. Tom looked, but could see nothing in the middle of the pool except one peaked iceberg. "That is where you will find her—underneath it," said the whale.



4. "What does she do down there?" Tom asked. The old whale gave a big yawn and answered: "She's busy all the year round making old beasts into new ones." "If she makes things into new," said Tom, thinking hard, "I suppose that she cuts up a great whale like you into a whole shoal of porpoises." At this remark the old whale laughed loudly. "Run along with you, boy, and find out," he chuckled.



5. Wondering what he might find, Tom swam to the iceberg and dived down beside it. As he swam towards the bottom of the sea, he was passed by a rising cloud of millions of very tiny new-born creatures, of more shapes and colours than he had ever dreamed of. They were Mother Carey's children, whom she makes out of sea water all day long.



6. Tom expected, as most people would, to find her as busy as could be, but instead of that he came upon the grandest lady he had ever seen, a white marble lady sitting on a white marble throne. She sat quite still, looking around with two blue eyes as blue as the sea itself. "It is a long time since I have seen a water baby here," she said kindly.



7. Tom told her his errand and how he had been sent to find Mr. Grimes at the Other-end-of-Nowhere. Although Mr. Grimes had treated him cruelly when he had been a chimney-sweep, Tom had a duty to be kind to him, to show that he had learned the ways of a good little boy. "You are a splendid little fellow," said Mother Carey and when she told him the way to go, Tom thanked her kindly and swam off with no more delay.



8. Tom walked for a long time along the soft ocean floor and soon became aware of a hissing and a roaring, as though all the steam engines in the world were working at once. When he came nearer to the noise the water grew boiling hot, but that did not hurt him in the least. At last Tom came very close to the Other-end-of-Nowhere. He reached a place which was called Stop. And there he stopped on the edge of a big hole.



9. It was a kind of small volcano and the steam that came out of it made the water spin round and round in a sort of whirlpool. It made gurgling noises that reminded Tom that once, when chimney-sweeping in a big house, he saw a bath emptying itself down the plughole. He let himself be carried down it, hoping for the best.



10. He went rushing and tumbling down through the great hole and when he got to the bottom of it he came safely to the shore of the Other-end-of-Nowhere. He saw before him a huge building made of brick. It reminded Tom of a prison and as he walked towards it, he had a strange fancy that he might find Mr. Grimes somewhere inside it.



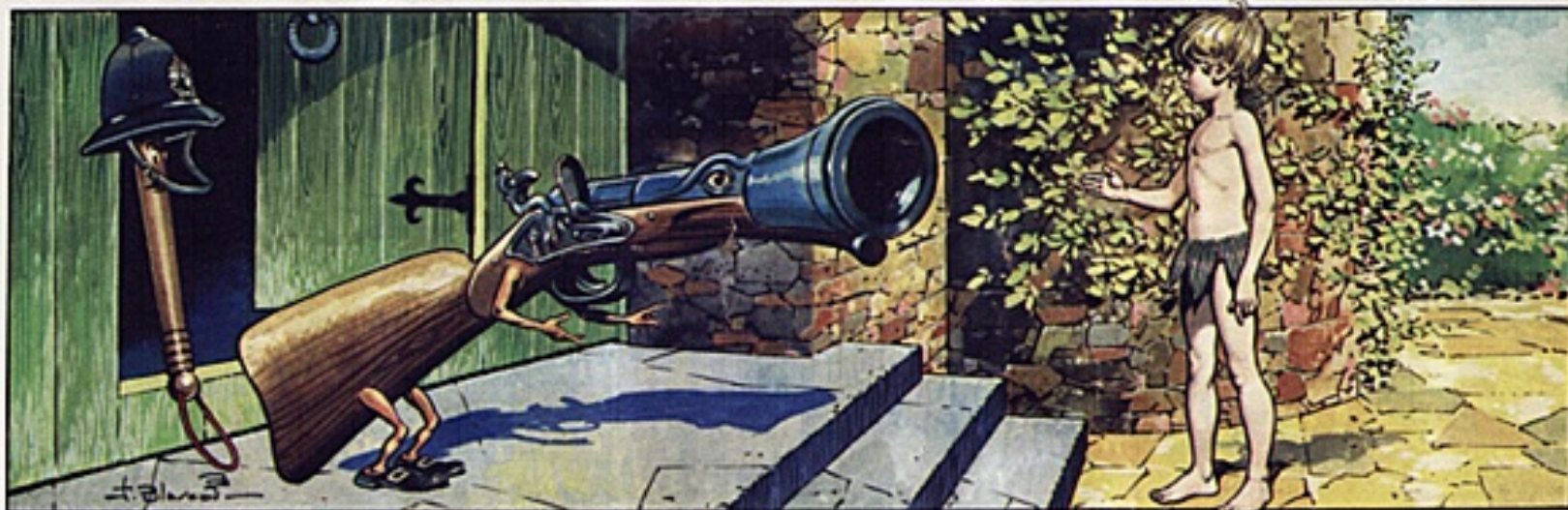
11. Boldly Tom marched towards the building when something shouted "Stop!" It was nothing more than a policeman's truncheon, running along without arms and legs. And when the truncheon asked him his business, Tom told him that he had come from Mother Carey and was looking for Mr. Grimes.

The Water Babies



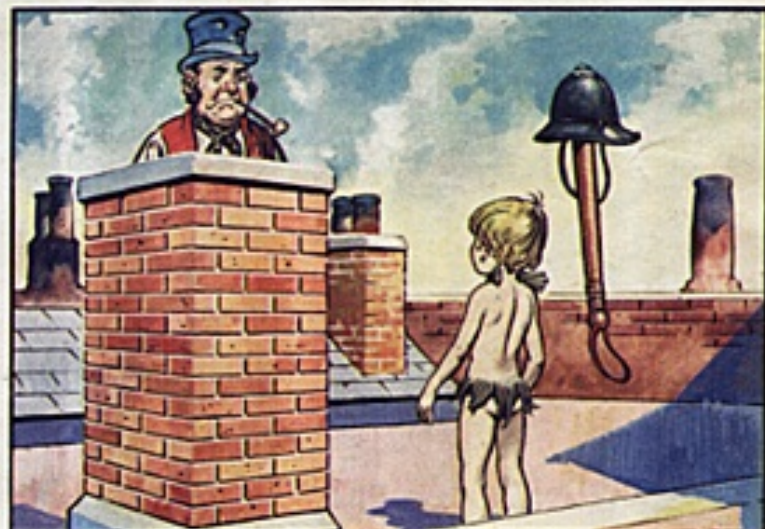
Brave Tom has changed from being a naughty little chimney-sweep into a good and well-behaved water baby. He sets himself the task of finding his cruel old master, Mr. Grimes, who has been punished by being put in a prison at the Other-end-of-Nowhere. Tom speaks to a policeman's truncheon at the entrance...

1. The policeman's truncheon was running along without arms or legs, but Tom was not a bit surprised. He was long past that. Since becoming a water baby he had seen many strange and wonderful sights. "I have come from Mother Carey," he told the truncheon warder. "My job is to find Mr. Grimes and make him happy." "All right follow me," said the truncheon. "We'll see if it can be arranged." He turned and went ahead of Tom, escorting him towards the great door of the huge prison.



2. When they came up to the closed door the truncheon knocked on it twice with his own head. The door opened and out looked a tremendous old brass blunderbuss, who was the porter. Tom started back at little at the sight of him. "What case is this?" asked the blunderbuss in a deep voice out of his broad bell-mouth. "If you please, sir, it is no case," replied the truncheon.

3. "It is only a young gentleman from her ladyship, Mother Carey. He wants to see Grimes, the sweep." "Grimes?" said the blunderbuss. "Grimes is up in chimney number 345, so the young gentleman had better go on to the roof." "How do I get up there?" asked Tom, looking up at the wall which seemed miles and miles high. But in a moment the truncheon settled that little matter.

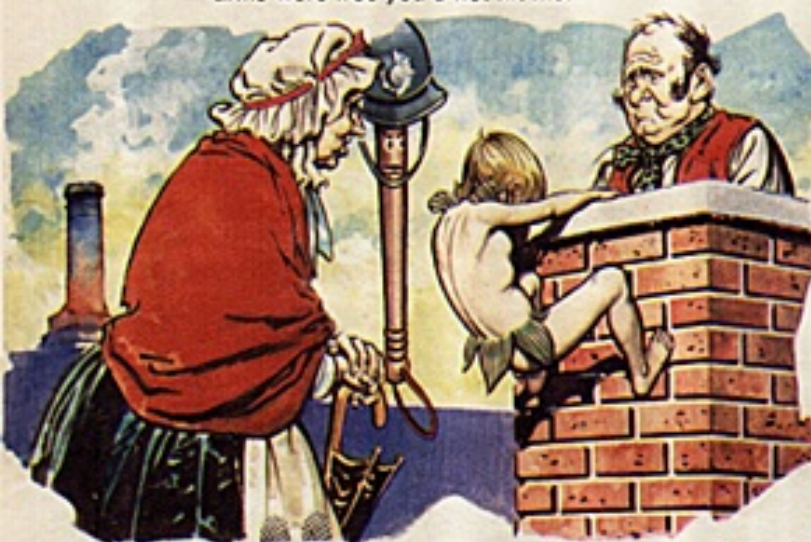


4. It whisked round and gave Tom such a powerful push that it sent him up to the roof in no time. "Come along," the truncheon said. "But it will be of no use. Grimes is the most hard-hearted fellow we have in charge. He thinks about nothing but beer and pipes, which are not allowed here, of course." They walked along over the flat roof through the many smoky and sooty-looking chimneys.

5. At last they came to chimney number 345. Out of the top of it, with his head and shoulders just showing, stuck poor Mr. Grimes. He was so sooty and ugly that Tom could hardly bear to look at him. In his mouth was a pipe, but it was not alight, though he was puffing at it with all his might. "Why, it's Tom," he said. "Have you come to laugh at me?"



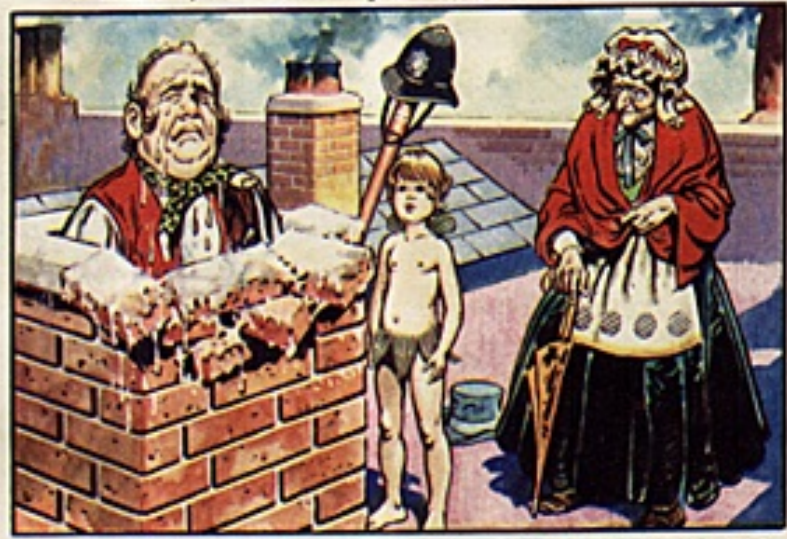
6. "Keep a civil tongue in your head," said the truncheon, and it popped up just like Punch, hitting Grimes such a crack over the head with itself that his brains rattled. He tried to get his hands out to rub the place but he could not, for they were stuck fast in the chimney. "Everything's all my fault," grumbled Grimes. "But if my arms were free you'd not hit me."



8. "You may try, of course," said the ugly fairy. Tom tugged and pulled at the bricks of the chimney but he could not move one. "You had best leave me alone," said Grimes. "You're a good-natured and forgiving little chap and that's the truth, but you'd best be off. I'm sorry for all the nasty things I've done in my life, but it's too late now." "It is never too late," said the strange fairy.



7. "Can't I help him to get out of this chimney?" asked Tom. "Perhaps!" answered a solemn voice from behind Tom. He turned round and suddenly saw Mrs. Be-don-by-as-you-did. When the truncheon saw her it stood bolt upright — Attention! — and Tom made a low bow. "Oh, Mrs. Be-don-by-as-you-did," said Tom. "Please may I do something to help poor old Mr. Grimes?"



9. She was right. For as poor Grimes cried and blubbered, his own tears did what Tom had not the strength to do. They washed the mortar away from between the bricks and the chimney began to crumble down. Seeing that Grimes was likely to get out of it the truncheon jumped up and was going to hit him on the head with a thump, when Mrs. Be-don-by-as-you-did stopped it.



10. "Will you obey me if I give you a chance?" the strange fairy asked Grimes. "As you please, ma'am," said Grimes. "You're stronger and wiser than me. I'll do whatever your ladyship says." Grimes stepped out of the chimney and for once he looked as clean and respectable as a master-sweep should look.

11. "Take him away," said the fairy to the truncheon. "Give him a useful job to do. Get him to sweep out the crater of Mount Etna." Tom looked a little puzzled. Because he had never been to school to learn about anything he did not know at the time that Mount Etna was a large volcano in the island of Sicily.

The Water Babies

Since becoming a water baby, Tom, the brave little chimney sweep, goes to a prison at the Other-end-of-Nowhere and sets free his cruel old master, Mr. Grimes. Promising to be good and kind in future, Grimes is sent off on a job, to sweep the crater of Mount Etna . . .



1. Looking very meek, Mr. Grimes let the police truncheon march him off to do the job chosen for him by Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did. Tom waved goodbye to his old master, and for all anyone knows, or does not know, Grimes is still sweeping the crater of Mount Etna to this very day. Sometimes, the volcano gets choked up with too many red-hot cinders and throws them out in showers. Then Mr. Grimes has to work twice as hard to sweep the crater clean before it covers the island of Sicily with ashes.



2. "Now," smiled the fairy to Tom, "your work here is done. You may as well go back again, but I must bandage your eyes first." Tom stood quite still and let the strange fairy blindfold his eyes with a handkerchief. He did not feel the least bit alarmed about it.



3. Nor was Tom very surprised by what happened next. In the world of the water babies so many things had taken place that he had ceased to wonder at the magic of them. With one hand Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did tied the handkerchief around his eyes and with the other she took it off. "Now you are safe," she said. It seemed to Tom that he had not moved a single step, but when he opened his eyes and looked round him, he knew that he was back again on the bottom of the sea close to Saint Brandan's Isle.



4. Tom walked out of the sea and up the gently-sloping beach. The first things he saw were the cliffs of Saint Brandan's Isle, standing high and sharp against the rosy dawn. The wind sang softly in the rocks and water sang among the caves.

5. The seabirds also sang as they streamed out into the ocean, but among the songs one came across the water more sweet and clear than the others. It was the song of a young girl's voice and it was the sweetest sound that Tom had ever heard.



6. Tom hurried to find out who was singing, and there upon a rock sat the most graceful creature that was ever seen. When Tom came near she looked up and, behold, it was Ellie, the girl Tom had seen in Harthover House when he had been sweeping the chimneys. "Oh, Miss Ellie," said Tom. "Oh, Tom," she said, "I thought you were never coming."



8. As if by magic, the ugly fairy seemed to change. "Now you are Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by," said Tom. "You have grown quite beautiful now." Tom opened his mouth in wonder. The ugly fairy, Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did, and the lovely fairy, Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by, were supposed to be sisters, so how could they be just one person? "I cannot make it out at all," he said.



10. "Look again," the fairy said. "Who am I now?" "You are now the gipsy woman who met me the day I went to sweep the chimneys at Harthover House," said Tom. Smiling, she turned to Ellie. "You may take him home with you now," she said. "Tom has become good by helping Mr. Grimes."



7. Tom looked at Ellie and Ellie looked at Tom. They might have stood like that for years, if a voice had not said to them, "Attention, children. Are you never going to look at me again?" There stood the ugly fairy. "Oh!" exclaimed Ellie. "You are our Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did." "Am I?" said the fairy. "Take another close look at me, children."



9. "Now look again," the fairy said. And once more there was a magic change. "Now you are Mother Carey," said Tom. "We met when I swam under the Shiny Wall into the pool where the good old whales go to be made young again. It was you who told me the way to the Other-end-of-Nowhere, and it was there that I found my old master, Mr. Grimes."



11. Did Tom marry Ellie? Nobody really knows. This is all a fairy-tale and in fairy-tales it is usually only princes and princesses who marry. But Tom and Ellie were so kind and so good that there is no reason to think that they should not be the equals of a prince and princess. Is there? All we know is that they were very happy.

Jesús Blasco

ALICE in WONDERLAND



~ & Playing Card Collection ~

Once Upon a Time

4 October 1970 #89 - 2 January 1971 #99



Lewis Carroll

ALICE IN WONDERLAND must be one of the most popular fairy stories ever written, and the characters that appear in the book are known and loved by many children.

The book was written by Lewis Carroll, whose real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, and he was born in 1832. It is strange that a man who could delight so many children with his wonderful tales, was also a brilliant mathematician—a subject which most youngsters hate.

Queen Victoria was very fond of the book, and it is said that she asked the author to send a copy of his next book,

which turned out to be a book on Mathematics. How disappointed she must have been.

Lewis Carroll was a young man when he wrote *Alice in Wonderland*, and it may interest you to know that there really was a little girl called Alice. She was the daughter of his friend, H. G. Liddell, dean of Christ Church, Oxford. And it was to her and her two sisters, that Lewis Carroll would tell stories, one of them being *Alice in Wonderland*.

From the real Alice, we learn that most of Lewis Carroll's stories were told on river expeditions near Oxford, and the

day on which *Alice in Wonderland* was told, was very hot and they all had to take shelter from the sun in a newly-made hayrick.

The author copied out the story and gave it to Alice as a Christmas present. It became her most treasured possession, and when she was finally persuaded to sell the story, it was bought in the United States in 1928, for the sum of £15,400.

Starting this week, in *Once Upon A Time*, is the story of *Alice in Wonderland*. By reading it, you will meet strange characters, such as the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, and of course—Alice.

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

No. 89 • 24th OCTOBER 1970

PRICE 1/6 • 7.50 n.p.

Alice in Wonderland...



ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting beside her sister and having nothing to do. The hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid and her eyes began to close.

2. Then suddenly a White Rabbit ran past her. "Oh dear, oh dear! I shall be too late!" it was saying. Now Alice should have wondered about this but at the time it seemed natural.



3. Then when the White Rabbit took a watch from its waistcoat pocket and looked at it, Alice jumped to her feet. She was now curious, having never before seen a rabbit with a waistcoat pocket, or a watch to take out of it. So she hurried after it.



4. She was just in time to see it pop down a rabbit hole and Alice went down after it, never once considering how in the world she was going to get out again. The hole went straight on like a tunnel and then dipped suddenly.



5. Poor Alice had not a moment to think how to stop herself and she went falling down and down and down a deep well, past shelves that were filled with all sorts of puzzling things.



6. "I wonder how many miles I have fallen?" she wondered. "Shall I fall right through the Earth to the other side?" Suddenly—thump! Down she came upon a heap of leaves.



7. Alice was not hurt and jumped to her feet in a moment. In front of her was another passage and the White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying down it as fast as it could go.

8. "Oh, my ears and whiskers, how late it is getting," the White Rabbit was saying. It turned a corner, and when Alice followed round it, the rabbit was no longer in sight.



9. She found herself in a long, low hall. There were a number of doors around the hall, but they were all locked. Alice went up one side and down the other, trying every door and wondering how she was ever to get out again.



10. Then she came upon a table with a glass top. There was nothing on it except a golden key and Alice's first thought was that it might belong to one of the doors of the hall. "At least I can try it in the locks," she said to herself.



11. She tried one door after another but, alas, it would not open any of them until she came upon a tiny door only about fifteen inches high. To her delight it fitted.



12. Alice knelt down and looked through the tiny door at the loveliest garden you ever saw. How she longed to get into it—but the door was too small to get through.

ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. Alice wondered how she could get through the tiny door and into the garden on the other side of it, so she went back to the glass table. On it she found a bottle, which certainly was not there before.



2. Around the bottle was a label with the words DRINK ME in large letters. Alice drank some and it had a nice mixed flavour of cherry tart, pineapple and hot toast.



3. "What a curious feeling," said Alice soon after. "I must be shutting up like a telescope." So it was indeed. She was now only a few inches high and just the right size for going through the door into the garden.



4. But, alas, for poor Alice. When she got to the tiny door she had forgotten the golden key that would open it. And when she went back to the table for it, she found she could not possibly reach it. "Oh dear, how silly of me to put it back on the table," she murmured.



5. She tried her best to climb up one of the table-legs but it was too slippery. When she had tired herself out with trying, the poor little thing sat down and cried.



6. Crying was no use, so Alice looked around and found a cake under the table. EAT ME, it said in currants, so Alice took a big bite and next moment she started opening out like the biggest telescope ever!



7. "Curiouser and curiouser," thought Alice. "Goodbye, my feet!" For when she looked down they seemed to be almost out of sight. "Oh, my poor feet, I wonder who will put your shoes on for you now?" she said. Then her head hit the roof.



8. Now she seemed to be miles taller than the glass table, but at least she could reach down and take the golden key from off the top of it. "I must be careful what I drink or eat in future," thought Alice to herself. "But now to open that little garden door."



9. This she did, but it was no use. She could hardly get a couple of fingers through the tiny opening, let alone her head and shoulders. "How queer everything is today," she said.

10. Crouching down and putting her head level with the door, Alice was able to look through into the garden with one eye, but the rest was hopeless.

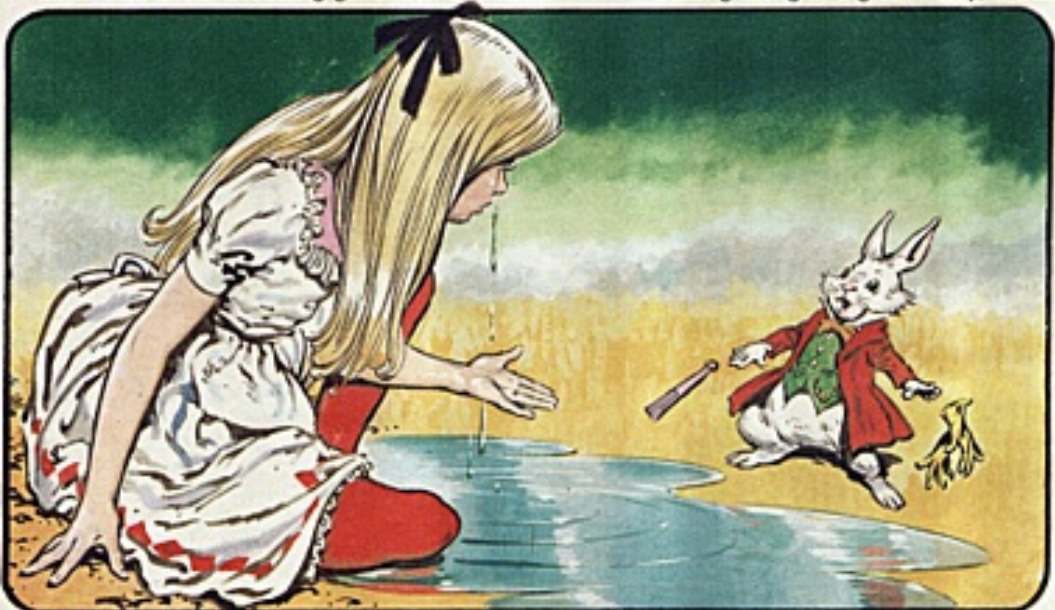
ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. Poor Alice! She had now grown too big to get through the tiny door into the garden, so she sat down and cried, shedding gallons of salt tears.



2. Soon there was a large pool all round her, several inches deep. Hearing a patter of feet she dried her eyes to see what was coming. It was the White Rabbit. He came trotting along in a great hurry, muttering to himself, "Oh, the Duchess, the Duchess!"



3. The White Rabbit was splendidly dressed, with a pair of gloves in one hand and a fan in the other. "If you please, sir—" Alice began to say in a timid voice. The Rabbit started violently and before Alice could say anything else he dropped the gloves and fan and scurried away into the darkness just as hard as he could go.



4. Alice took up the fan and, as hot, she kept fanning herself. "Dear, dear," she said. "How queer it all is."



5. As she spoke she looked down at her hand and was surprised to see that she had put on one of the Rabbit's gloves. "I must have grown small," she said.



6. She was shrinking fast. The cause of it was the fan she was holding, so she dropped it hastily just in time to stop herself from shrinking away altogether. "That was a narrow escape," she said, in relief.



7. "Now for the garden," she went on. As she said these words her foot slipped and in another moment—splash! Alice was up to her chin in salt water, in the deep pool made by her own tears.

8. Then she heard something splashing about in the pool, and at first thought it must be a hippopotamus or a walrus, until she remembered how small she was. It was a mouse that had fallen in.



9. "Would it be of any use to speak to this mouse?" thought Alice. There was no harm in trying, so she began: "Mouse, do you know the way out of this pool? I'm tired of swimming around." The mouse winked a little eye, but said nothing.



10. Then Alice noticed that the pool was getting crowded with birds and animals that had fallen into it. There were a Duck, a Dodo, a Lory, an Eaglet and several other curious creatures. "It's no use swimming around," said Alice. "Let's get out."



11. Acting on Alice's advice, the whole party swam out of the salty pool to the shore, the birds with draggled feathers and the animals with their soaking-wet fur clinging close to them.

12. They were all dripping wet and cross and uncomfortable. At last the mouse, perched on the back of a tortoise, called out: "Sit down, I'll soon make you dry."

ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. Alice and the queer-looking party of animals and birds were at last out of the pool and on dry land. They were all dripping wet, cross and uncomfortable. "Sit down, all of you," said the Mouse. "Listen to me and I'll soon make you dry. Are you all ready now?"



2. The Mouse put on an important air. "Silence all round, if you please—this is the driest thing I know," he said. And he proceeded to tell them about history, which is a very dry subject indeed, but it did not seem to dry them at all.



3. "We're still as wet as ever," said the Dodo, as it rose to its feet. "The best thing to get us dry would be a Caucus race." "What's that?" asked Alice.



4. "Why, the best way to explain it is to do it," said the Dodo. So a circle was marked out and without so much as a "One, two, three and away," they all began running round and round and in half an hour they were dry again.



5. "The race is over," the Dodo suddenly called out. So they all stopped and crowded round, asking, "But who has won?" "Everybody has won and all must have prizes," said the Dodo.



6. The whole party crowded round Alice, calling out, "Prizes! Prizes!" Alice put her hand in her pocket and pulled out a bag of tiny minty sweets. These she handed out and there was exactly one each for them.



7. "She must have a prize for herself, you know," the Mouse said. "Of course she must," agreed the Dodo very seriously. "What else have you got in your pocket?" "Only a thimble," Alice replied.

8. "Hand it over," said the Dodo. Then they all crowded round Alice, while the Dodo very solemnly presented her with her own thimble. Alice thought it absurd as they clapped and cheered.



9. Happier now, she began to tell the creatures all about herself. "I wish I could show you the pet I have at home," she said. "She's very sweet and her name is Dinah." "Who is Dinah?" asked the Lory and Alice replied, "She's my cat."



10. Alice was always ready to talk about her pet cat, but just the mention of it caused a sensation in the party. All the creatures gave a gasp of horror and hurried away at once. So Alice was left all alone. "I wish I hadn't mentioned Dinah," she sighed.



11. Here Alice began to cry again, but then she heard a little pattering of footsteps and looked up eagerly, half hoping that the friendly Mouse had changed its mind and was coming back to talk to her. But it was the White Rabbit looking for the gloves it had lost. "Hello," said Alice.

ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. "Oh, my fur and whiskers," muttered the White Rabbit, as it came up to Alice. "Mary Ann, run home this very moment and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan. Quick!"



2. Alice ran off in the direction of the house without trying to explain the mistake the White Rabbit had made. "He mistook me for his housemaid," she thought, "but I'll get him his gloves and fan."



3. It seemed very queer to be going errands for a White Rabbit, but Alice hurried into the neat little house without knocking and went upstairs. She found her way into a tidy little room and on a table were a fan, a pair of white gloves and a bottle. "Ah," said Alice



4. "I know something interesting is sure to happen if I eat or drink anything, so I'll just see what this bottle does. I do hope it will make me grow again, for really I'm tired of being small." She took a good long drink.



5. Alas, it was soon too late to wish she hadn't, for she grew and grew till she was too big for the room.



6. Alice's huge hand came out through the window, much to the surprise of the White Rabbit and his gardener. "Pat, take it away!" squeaked the White Rabbit.



7. Then Alice's foot stretched up and out of the chimney and she heard a ladder being placed in position and the sound of some sort of animal scratching on the chimney quite close.



8. She gave one sharp kick and the first thing she heard was a loud shout. "There goes Bill!" the White Rabbit said, as Bill the Lizard came tumbling down. "Catch him, some of you. Hold him!"



9. After a minute or two of silence outside, Alice heard the White Rabbit say, "A barrowful will do to begin with." Then a shower of little pebbles came in through the window. Some hit Alice, but she noticed that the pebbles were all turning into little cakes.



10. "If I eat one of these cakes," she thought, "it's sure to make a change in my size and as it can't possibly make me larger, it must make me smaller, I suppose." So she ate one of the cakes and was delighted to find herself shrinking at once.



11. As soon as she was small enough to get through the door, Alice ran out of the house and hurried past the crowd of animals.

12. "The first thing I've got to do is to find my way into that lovely garden," Alice thought.

ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. After adventures in the house of the White Rabbit, Alice hurried away through the woods, hoping to find her way into the lovely garden, but she had no real idea how to set about it.


2. "Somehow I've got to grow up again," she said. "I suppose ought to eat or drink something or other, but the question is what?" Alice looked around and saw a large mushroom nearby.



3. When she had looked under it and on both sides of it and behind it, she thought she might as well look and see what was on top of it. She peeped over the edge and her eyes met those of a large caterpillar, sitting on the top.



4. Taking a hookah pipe out of its mouth, the caterpillar addressed her in a sleepy voice. "Who are you?" it said. "I hardly know, sir, just at present." Alice replied rather shyly. "I can't remember things as I used to and I don't keep the same size for ten minutes together."



"You are old, Father William," the young man said,
"And your hair has become very white;
And yet you incessantly stand on your head—
Do you think, at your age, it is right?"

"You are old," said the youth, "as I mentioned before,
And have grown most uncommonly fat;
Yet you turned a back-somersault in at the door—
Pray, what is the reason for that?"

"You are old," said the youth, "and your jaws are too weak
For anything tougher than suet;
Yet you finished the goose, with the bones and the beak—
Pray, how do you manage to do it?"


"You are old," said the youth, "one would hardly suppose
That your eye was as steady as ever;
Yet you balanced an eel on the end of your nose—
What made you so awfully clever?"

"In my youth," Father William replied to his son,
"I feared it might injure the brain;
But now that I'm perfectly sure that I've none,
Why, I do it again and again."

"In my youth," said the sage, as he shook his grey locks,
"I kept all my limbs very supple
By the use of this ointment—one shilling the box,
Allow me to sell you a couple?"

"In my youth," said his father, "I took to the law,
And argued each case with my wife;
And the muscular strength, which it gave to my jaw,
Has lasted the rest of my life."

"I have answered three questions, and that is enough,
Said his father, "Don't give yourself airs.
Do you think I can listen all day to such stuff?
Be off, or I'll kick you downstairs!"



5. "You can't remember things?" said the caterpillar. "Come now, see if you can say 'You are old, Father William'. It's a poem." Alice said she would try, folded her hands together and began, speaking the words of the jolly poem shown above.

6. She did very well, but the caterpillar said, "You didn't say it right—it's wrong from beginning to end." Then there was a silence for quite a few minutes. The caterpillar was the first to speak. "One side makes you taller, the other shorter," it said.



7. "One side of what? The other side of what?" thought Alice to herself. "Of the mushroom, of course," the caterpillar said, just as if she had asked it aloud. Then it yawned once or twice, got down off the mushroom and crawled away until it was out of sight.



8. Alice looked thoughtfully at the mushroom, trying to make out what were the two sides of it. As it was perfectly round she found this a difficult question. However, she stretched her arms round and broke off a bit of the end with each hand.



9. She nibbled a little of the right-hand bit and the next moment felt a violent blow under her chin. She had shrunk so fast, it had struck her foot!



10. Her chin was pressed so closely against her foot that there was hardly room to open her mouth, but she did manage to swallow a morsel of the left-hand bit. "Oh dear, I do hope I have done the right thing," she thought.



11. However, after a few anxious seconds of waiting, she felt her chin lift upwards. "My head's free at last," she said, but then her delight changed to alarm.



12. All she could see when she looked down was an immense length of neck, which seemed to rise like a stalk out of the green leaves. Then a pigeon flew along. "Serpent!" it cried.

ALICE in WONDERLAND

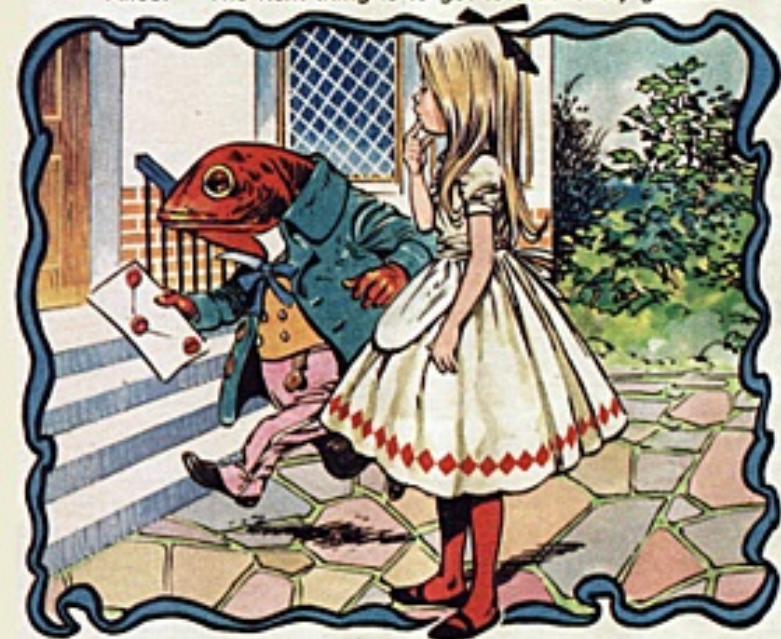


1. Poor Alice! She had grown such a long neck. After a while she remembered she still had the other piece of mushroom in her hand and she set to work to nibble it.



2. Soon she brought herself down to her usual height. At first it felt quite strange. "How puzzling all these changes are," thought Alice. "The next thing is to get to that lovely garden."

3. As Alice said this, she suddenly came upon an open space with a splendid house in it. "Who can live there, I wonder?" she asked herself. "I'll find out the way to the garden."



4. For a moment she paused at the front door, and suddenly a footman in livery ran out of the wood. (Alice considered him to be a footman by the way he was dressed, but by the way he looked she would have called him a fish.) Hurrying past Alice without so much as by-your-leave or anything like that, the fish-faced footman rapped loudly on the door.



5. It was opened by another footman with a round face and eyes like a frog. The Fish-Footman produced a letter and he handed it over to the other, saying in solemn tones, "For the Duchess. An invitation from the Queen to play croquet." The Frog-Footman repeated in the same solemn tone, only changing the words a little, "From the Queen. An invitation for the Duchess to croquet."



6. Then both the footmen bowed low and Alice laughed so much at this that she just had to run back into the wood for fear of their hearing her. "It wouldn't do to appear rude," she thought to herself, though she laughed until the tears began to come into her eyes. "I wonder why the Queen wants the Duchess to go and play a croquet game?"



7. When she had stopped laughing, Alice returned to the house. The Fish-Footman was gone and the frog-faced one was sitting on the ground, staring stupidly into the sky.



8. "Please," said Alice. "How am I to get in?" At this moment the door of the house opened and a large plate came skimming out, straight at the head of the Frog-Footman. It bounced off the end of his nose and broke into pieces.



9. A clatter and noises of things breaking came from inside the house. Alice did not know what to make of it, but she decided to go inside.



10. She peeped into a kitchen, full of smoke from one end to the other. The Duchess was sitting on a stool, nursing a baby. The cook was stirring a pot, which seemed to be full of soup. "Oh, there's much too much pepper in it," thought Alice.



11. Then suddenly the cook started to throw everything within reach at the Duchess and the baby!

ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. Alice could not make out what was going on in the kitchen. Everybody was throwing things at everybody else—and next moment the Duchess threw the baby, at Alice! "You may nurse it a bit if you like," she said. "I must go and get ready to play croquet with the Queen." When Alice caught the baby, it was snorting like a steam engine.



2. "Don't grunt so," said Alice, as she took it outside, but it grunted again and she looked anxiously into its face. Its nose was more like a pig's snout than a real nose by now.



3. "If you're going to turn into a pig, I'll have no more to do with you," said Alice. She set the creature down and was relieved to see it trot off into the wood.



4. Alice began to think about other children she knew, who might do very well as pigs—and became startled to see a Cheshire cat sitting in a nearby tree. "Would you tell me which way I ought to go from here?" she asked.



5. "In that direction," said the Cheshire cat, waving its paw around, "lives a Hatter. Over there lives a March Hare. You can visit whichever one you like. Believe me, they are both quite mad."



6. Having said this, the Cheshire cat started to disappear. It went quite slowly. Its body went first and it ended up with the grin, which remained some time after the rest of it had vanished.



7. "It's the most curious thing I've ever seen," thought Alice, as she walked on. Soon she came to the house of the March Hare, who sat at a table with the Hatter and a Dormouse, fast asleep.

8. "No room! No room!" they shouted out when they saw Alice coming. "There's plenty of room," said Alice indignantly. "The whole of this side of the table is empty and I shall sit down."



9. "It wasn't very civil of you to sit down without being invited," said the March Hare. "Your hair wants cutting," said the Hatter. "You shouldn't make personal remarks—it's very rude," said Alice.

10. "What day of the month is it?" asked the March Hare, as he took a watch out of his pocket and shook it. "I'm two days wrong." "Shouldn't put butter in it," said the Hatter.



11. He took the watch and then dipped it into his cup of tea. "And some crumbs must have got into it as well off the bread knife," he grumbled.

12. Alice decided to go and the last thing she saw was the Hatter pouring tea over the Dormouse.

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

No. 97 • 19th DECEMBER 1970

PRICE 1/6-7½p



ALICE in WONDERLAND



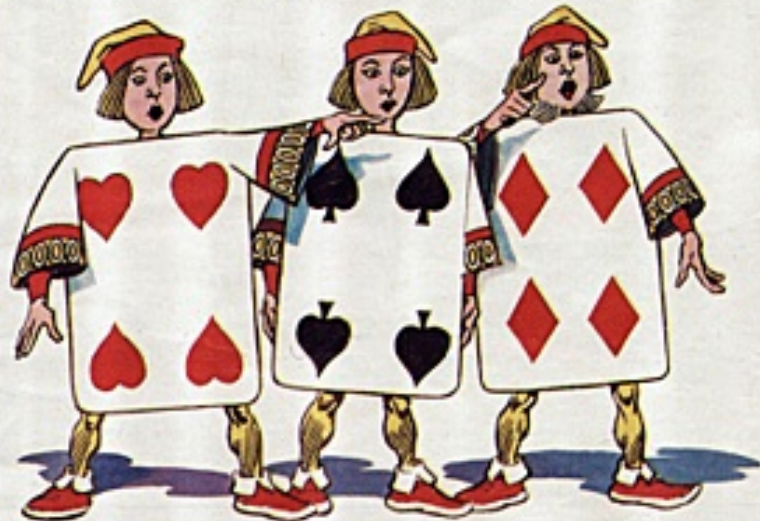
1. "Really!" said Alice, when the Hatter poured hot tea over the sleeping Dormouse's nose. "I don't think . . ." "Then you shouldn't talk," said the Hatter, as he and the March Hare then popped the Dormouse into the teapot.



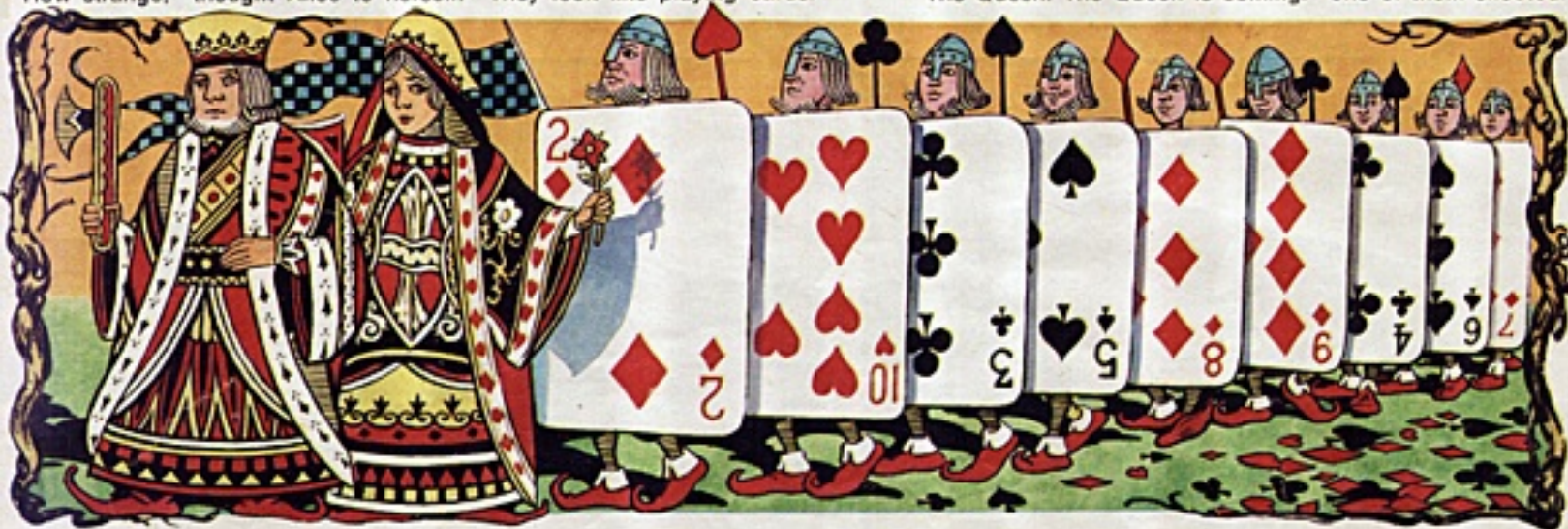
2. This piece of rudeness was more than Alice could bear. She got up in great disgust and walked away. Then, a little way off, she noticed a tree which had a door in it. "That's very curious," she thought. "I may as well go in at once, but I cannot imagine where it might lead me to."



3. She walked down a passage and found herself at last in the beautiful garden she had been trying to visit. In it was a large rose-tree. The roses on it were white, but there were three gardeners busy painting them red. "How strange," thought Alice to herself. "They look like playing cards."



4. Very curious, Alice went nearer to watch them, and just as she came up to them the three of them dropped their paint-brushes and stood stiff as though with sudden fright. "The Queen! The Queen is coming!" one of them shouted.



5. The three gardeners instantly threw themselves flat on their faces as the Royal procession arrived. In front were the King and Queen of Hearts. Behind them, marching in step, came soldiers and, like the gardeners, they were all shaped like playing cards.

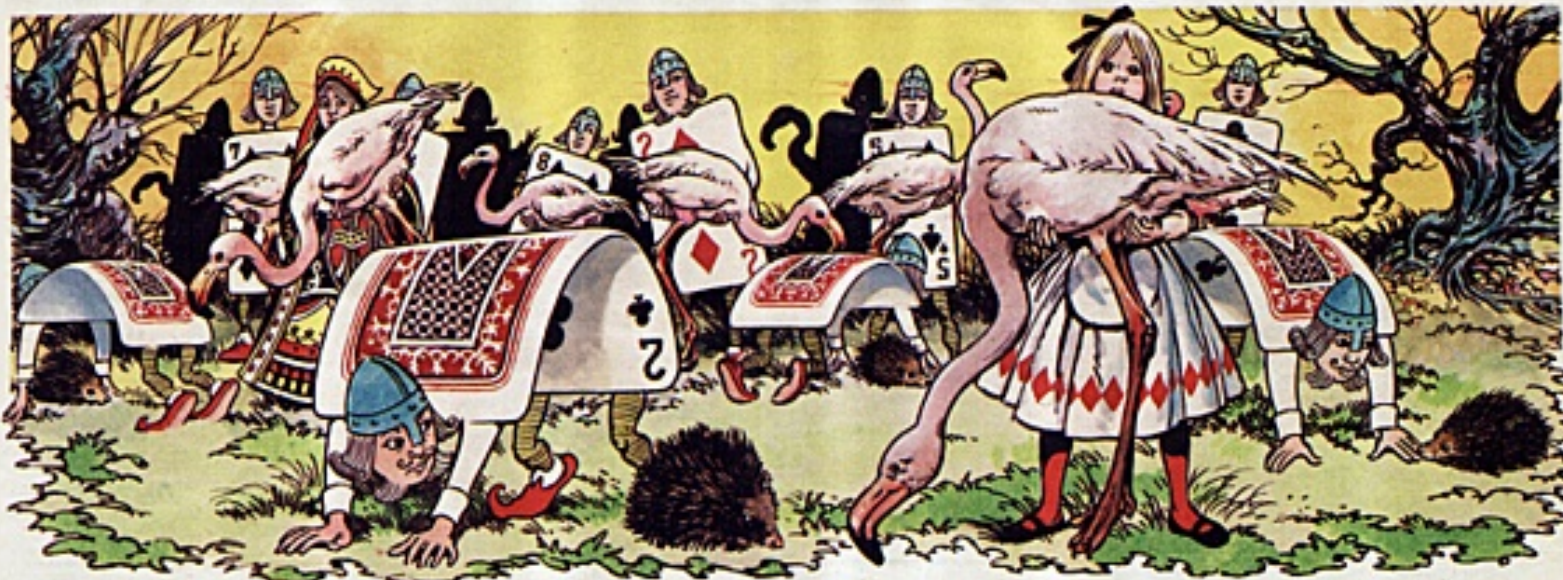
6. Some of the soldiers were decorated with diamond markings, others with hearts and clubs and spades. They carried spears, all topped with playing-card markings, and they looked very solemn as they marched behind the proud King and Queen of Hearts.



7. When the procession came opposite to Alice they all stopped and looked severely at her. "Who is this?" said the Queen, very sternly. "What's your name?" "My name is Alice, so please Your Majesty," replied Alice in her most polite manner of speaking.



8. After glaring at her for a moment, the Queen shouted, "Can you play croquet?" "Yes!" Alice shouted back. "Come on then," roared the Queen in a loud voice like thunder. "Get to your places, everybody, and let the game of croquet begin at once."



9. People began running about in all directions, tumbling over each other. Alice thought she had never seen such a curious game of croquet in all her life. The balls were live hedgehogs and the mallets to hit them with were live flamingoes of all things.

10. The soldiers had to double themselves up, standing upon their hands and feet to make arches. Alice soon found out that it was a very difficult game, played that way. She had difficulty in managing her flamingo, which kept on twisting its head round.



11. The players all played at once without waiting for turns and in a very short space of time the Queen was in a furious passion and stamped about, shouting, "Off with his head!" or "Off with her head!" about once a minute.



12. "I'll fetch the executioner myself," said the King, but by this time Alice thought she had seen enough. Everybody seemed to be shouting at once—the Queen loudest of all—so she took a quick glance round, hoping not to be noticed as she hurried away through the trees.

ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. Alice was still thinking about the Queen of Hearts and the croquet game when she reached the seashore and came upon two of the strangest creatures she had ever seen. "I'm the Mock Turtle," one of them bleated. "And this is my very sad friend the Gryphon."

2. The Gryphon rubbed its eyes. "What fun it all was," it said. "The Queen was in such a temper, wasn't she? But don't take any notice of her, dear child. They never execute anybody, you know." "I'm glad to hear it," said Alice, feeling very relieved.



3. Then the Mock Turtle said, "You may not have lived much under the sea and perhaps you were never introduced to a lobster..." (Alice began to say, "I once tasted..." but checked herself hastily and said "No, never") "... so you don't know what a Lobster Quadrille is."



4. "No, indeed," said Alice. "It must be a very pretty kind of dance." "Let's try the first figure," said the Mock Turtle to the Gryphon. So they held hands and began dancing round and round Alice, who watched them and was most interested.



5. "Let's do it again," cried the Gryphon and he and the Mock Turtle had just begun to repeat the Lobster Quadrille when the White Rabbit came rushing by. "Everybody to the courthouse—the trial's just beginning!" it shouted.

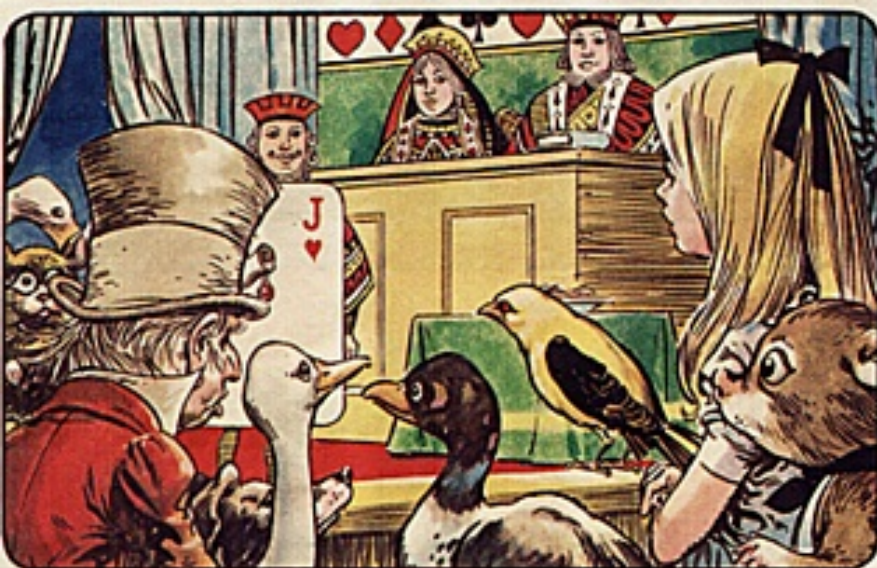


6. "Come on," said the Gryphon and, taking Alice by the hand, it hurried her off. "What trial is it?" panted Alice as she ran, but the Gryphon only said again "Come on!" and ran still faster. Poor Alice could hardly keep up with the creature.



7. When they reached the courthouse, a great crowd was going in—all sorts of birds and beasts, some of whom Alice had met before. "This way, this way!" the White Rabbit was calling out as he ushered everyone inside. "Take your places, everybody."

8. Alice glanced round to ask the Gryphon a question, but it had somehow vanished. "Now what do I do?" she wondered, putting her hand to her mouth. "Shall I go inside? I don't know what the trial is all about, but I feel that I ought to go inside."



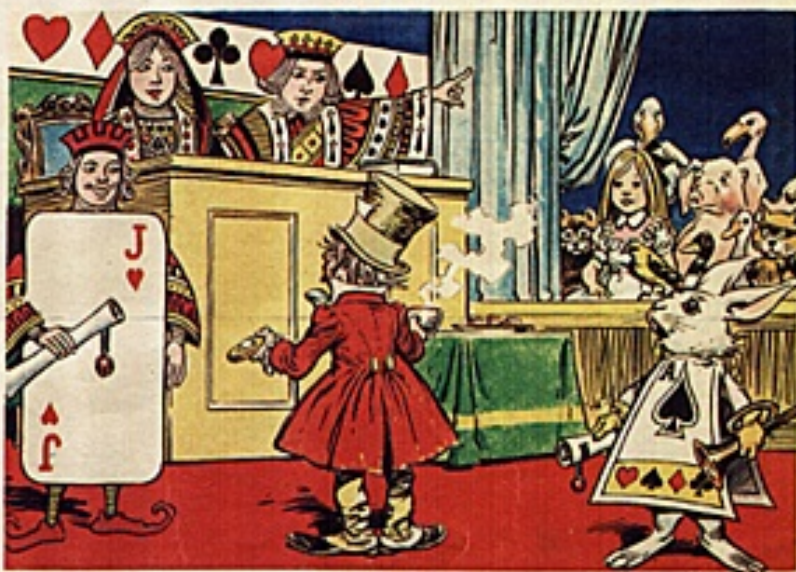
9. The King and Queen of Hearts were seated on their throne when Alice went in. The Knave of Hearts was standing in front of them and on a table nearby was a large dish of tarts. "I wish they'd get the trial done and hand them round," said Alice, hungrily.



10. "Read the accusation," said the King. The White Rabbit did so, saying, "The Queen of Hearts, she made some tarts, all on a summer day. The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts and took them all away. First witness!"



11. The first witness was the Hatter, who came in with a teacup in one hand and a piece of bread-and-butter in the other. "I beg your pardon, your Majesty—I hadn't quite finished my tea when I was sent for," he said. Then he dropped his teacup and bread-and-butter on the floor. "I'm a poor man," he started to say.

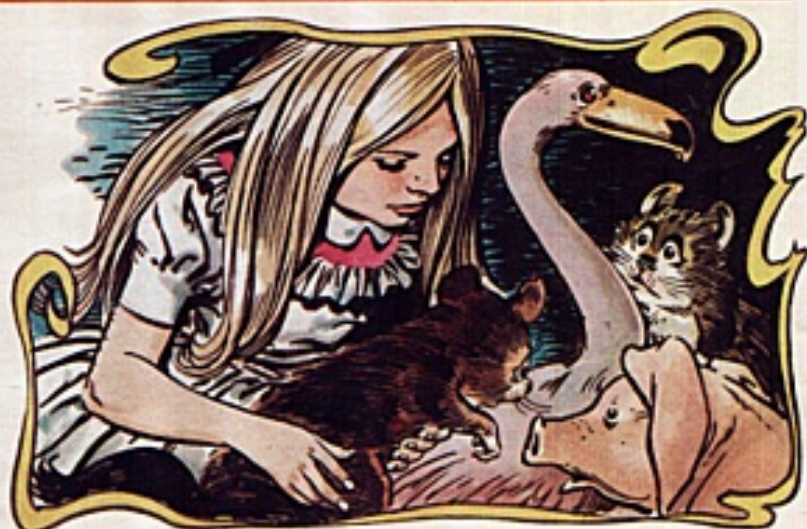


12. "You're a very poor speaker," said the King. "You may go. Call the next witness." The Hatter picked up his tea things and hurried away and Alice watched the White Rabbit look at his list, wondering what the next witness would be like. Imagine her great surprise when the White Rabbit shouted in a shrill voice, "Alice!"

ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. Alice wondered who the next witness would be at the trial, and when the White Rabbit called her name she was quite shocked. "Here!" she called out and she jumped up in such a hurry that she upset the jury-box, tipping all the jurymen out.



2. They lay sprawling about, reminding her very much of a bowl of goldfish she had accidentally upset the week before. "Oh, I beg your pardon," she said in a tone of great dismay, and began picking them up as quickly as she could, "I'm so very sorry."



3. At last Alice was standing in front of the judge's bench. "The trial can now proceed," said the King of Hearts. Then he pointed towards the jurors and said, "Consider your verdict. The Knave of Hearts is charged with stealing the tarts..."



4. "No!" snapped the Queen of Hearts. "Sentence first—verdict afterwards." "Stuff and nonsense," said Alice boldly. "The idea of having the sentence first. You don't know what you are talking about." The Queen looked angry. "Hold your tongue," she snapped.



5. "I won't," said Alice, growing even bolder. "I still say you don't know what you are talking about." At this the Queen became very angry indeed. "Off with her head!" she shouted at the top of her voice—but nobody moved to obey her.



6. "Off with her head!" repeated the Queen. "Off with her head, I say!" But then Alice started to get into a bit of a temper, too. "Who cares about you?" she said. "You're nothing but a pack of playing-cards, the whole lot of you, and I'm not scared."



7. Alice suddenly felt very brave, but as she spoke these words everybody in the court seemed to change into a playing-card. They stood all round her—tens and nines and sevens and all the rest of them—and for a moment or two she was alarmed.

8. But you can't hurt me," she found herself saying. "You're all nothing but a pack of playing-cards, and playing-cards can never hurt anybody. Now-now, don't crowd around and push me or I'll give a good blow and send you all toppling over."



9. The playing cards then all rose in the air above her and Alice gave a little scream, half of fright and half of anger. They were fluttering in her hair and she lay down on the floor to keep out of their way. She could see the King and Queen of Hearts above her and wondered what would happen next.



10. It was all a sudden surprise. The playing cards vanished and Alice found herself lying on a grassy bank beside a tree, with leaves from the branches fluttering down on her face.



11. Then her sister came up and gently brushed some of the falling leaves away from her face. "Wake up, Alice dear," she said. "What a long sleep you have had." "Oh, I've had such a curious dream," Alice replied. Then she told her sister, as well as she could remember, all the strange adventures.

12. "It certainly was a curious dream, dear," said her sister. "But now it is getting late and we must run in to your tea." So Alice got up and ran off, thinking while she ran, as well she might, what a wonderful dream it had been and how it had taken her to exciting adventures in the place called Wonderland.

Jesús Blaseo

Gulliver's Travels

Once Upon a Time

9 Jan. 1971 #100 - 27 Feb. 1971 #107

Once Upon a Time



Gulliver's Travels



1. It was early in the month of May, 1699, that the sailing ship Antelope left England on a voyage to the East Indies. On board was Lemuel Gulliver, the ship's doctor, and all went well until, somewhere in the Indian Ocean, there arose a terrible storm.

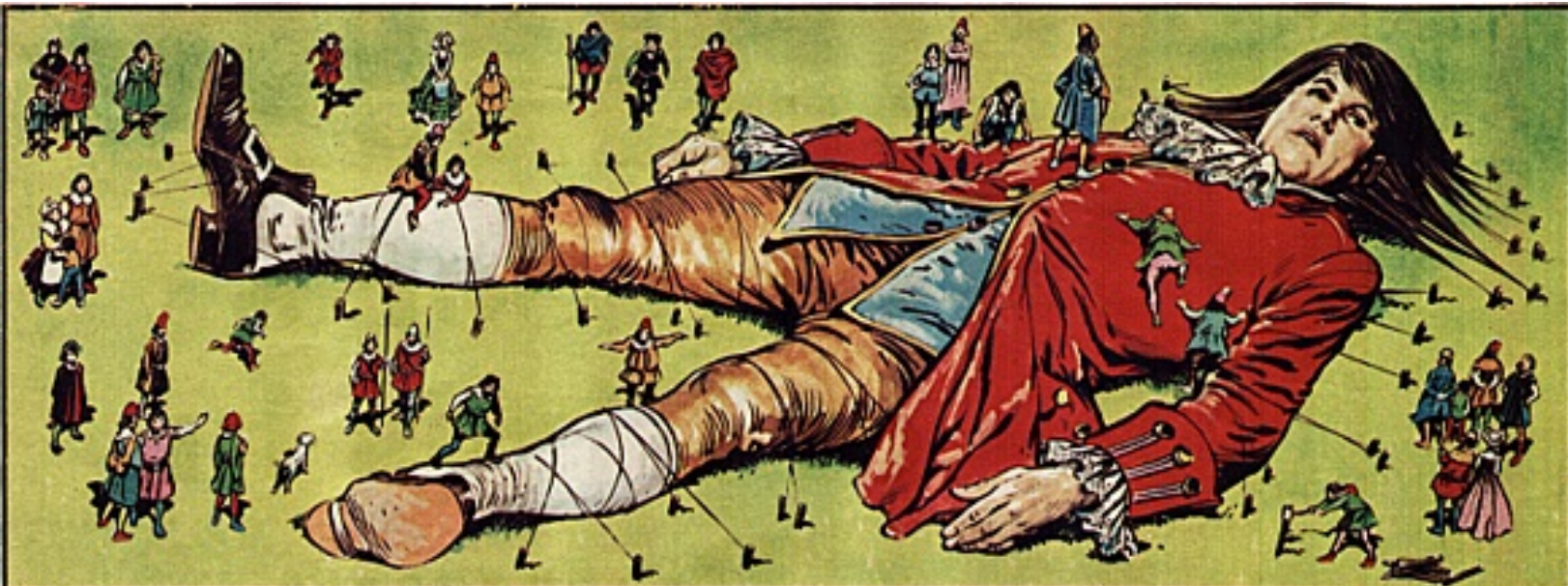
2. The wind was so fierce and the sea so rough that the ship began to sink. There was nothing the captain could do to save it, and when the masts started to snap off he ordered everyone aboard to leap into the sea and try to save themselves if they could.



3. Gulliver was among those who leapt into the sea and all night long he struggled to remain afloat in the huge waves. When morning came he found himself alone, floating on a calm sea. All the other people from the ship had vanished.



4. "What will become of me now?" he thought to himself. Gulliver kept on swimming towards an island, and after a struggle he dragged himself ashore. Thankful to be safe on firm ground again, he sank down. "I can see no sign of houses or people living here," he gasped. "But I am too tired to worry about that now. What I most need is a long sleep to revive me and give me strength."



5. He must have slept soundly for several hours. When he woke up, Gulliver tried to rise but found himself unable to move. His arms and legs, and even his hair, were pinned down by thin ropes.

6. In a little time he felt something moving across his chest and he saw that it was a tiny human creature, not six inches tall. There were others around him and they climbed on him like ants.



7. "Shoo! Shoo—go away!" he shouted and the roar of his voice was so loud that the tiny figures jumped off and ran away. But soon some of them came back and loosed off a shower of arrows, which pricked Gulliver like needles.



8. He decided it was wiser to lie still and the arrows stopped coming at him, so he opened his mouth and pointed to it to show he wanted food.



9. The tiny creatures seemed to understand that Gulliver was very hungry and at once about a hundred of them eagerly hurried away.

10. They came back after a time, bringing baskets and trays of food and barrels of wine.

Gulliver's Travels



1. Hundreds of the tiny Lilliput people hurried away to bring food and drink to the great giant who had suddenly come to their island. They brought chunks of roast beef, half as big as themselves, and little legs of something that tasted like mutton. It was meat of very good taste and Gulliver quickly ate it all.

2. The Lilliput people stared at him in great wonder, for in five minutes he ate more than enough to feed a hundred of them for a month. Then they gasped in surprise to see him lift a whole barrel of wine to his mouth and drink it dry in one great swallow. "Ah, that was nice," said Gulliver. "Can I have more?"



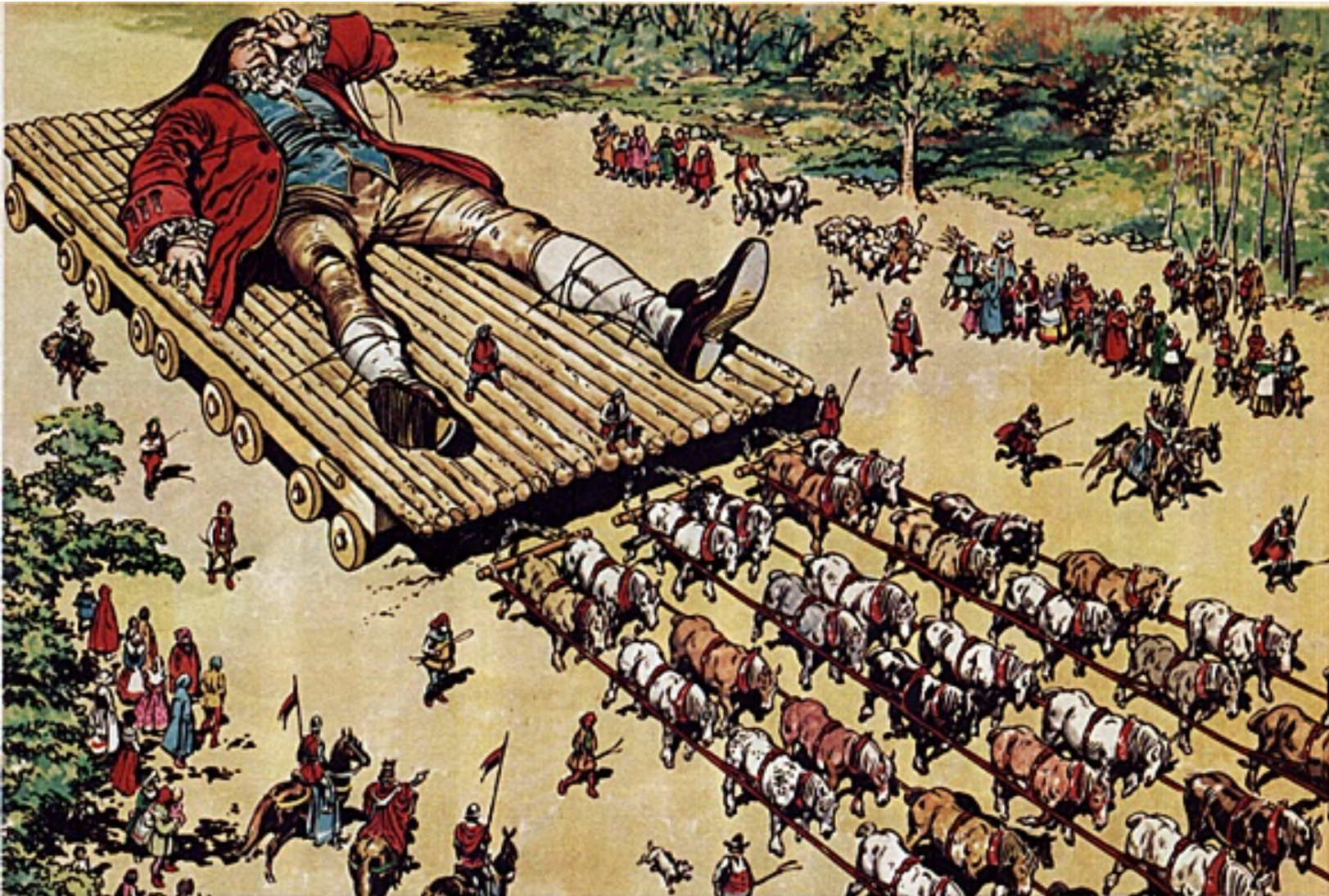
3. They brought him two more barrels and when Gulliver had drunk these he felt too sleepy to care when the tiny people of the island climbed over him and tugged at his hair. Gulliver happily let them do what they wanted, although their tiny feet tickled him all over. "Oh dear, I do feel sleepy," he sighed, giving a long, slow yawn.

4. And, not knowing that the clever little people had put a sleeping powder in the wine, Gulliver went off into a sound sleep. And while Gulliver slept the King of Lilliput gave orders: "This man mountain must be moved and taken to our city," he said. "See to it at once." His orders were obeyed.



5. The tiny creatures became very busy. Five hundred men made a rush for the forest and there they cut down trees and made wheels cut from the trunks. Then they made a frame about seven feet long.

6. On the sides of this wooden frame they put many wheels, so that it was raised three inches from the ground. It was on this frame that they planned to carry the huge figure of Gulliver to the city.



7. When it was brought alongside the sleeping giant they set about the task of lifting him on to it. This they did with the aid of about eighty poles and their strongest ropes. Nine hundred of their strongest men were needed to pull on the ropes and it took them three hours to raise Gulliver on to the wooden frame.

8. Gulliver was still asleep and they tied him down as they next brought up dozens of the King's biggest and strongest horses, each about four and a half inches high. These were harnessed to the frame and then they were ready to drag Gulliver towards the capital city of Lilliput, about half a mile away.



9. Half a mile would only be a short distance for ordinary humans, but for the Lilliputians it was a long and hard journey. They could not move along at more than a few inches a minute.



10. All night long they travelled. The wheeled frame creaked and groaned under the weight of Gulliver and it was sunrise before they were within sight of the city. By this time Gulliver was wide awake and wondering what might happen to him next in this wonderful land of Lilliput, the home of tiny human beings.

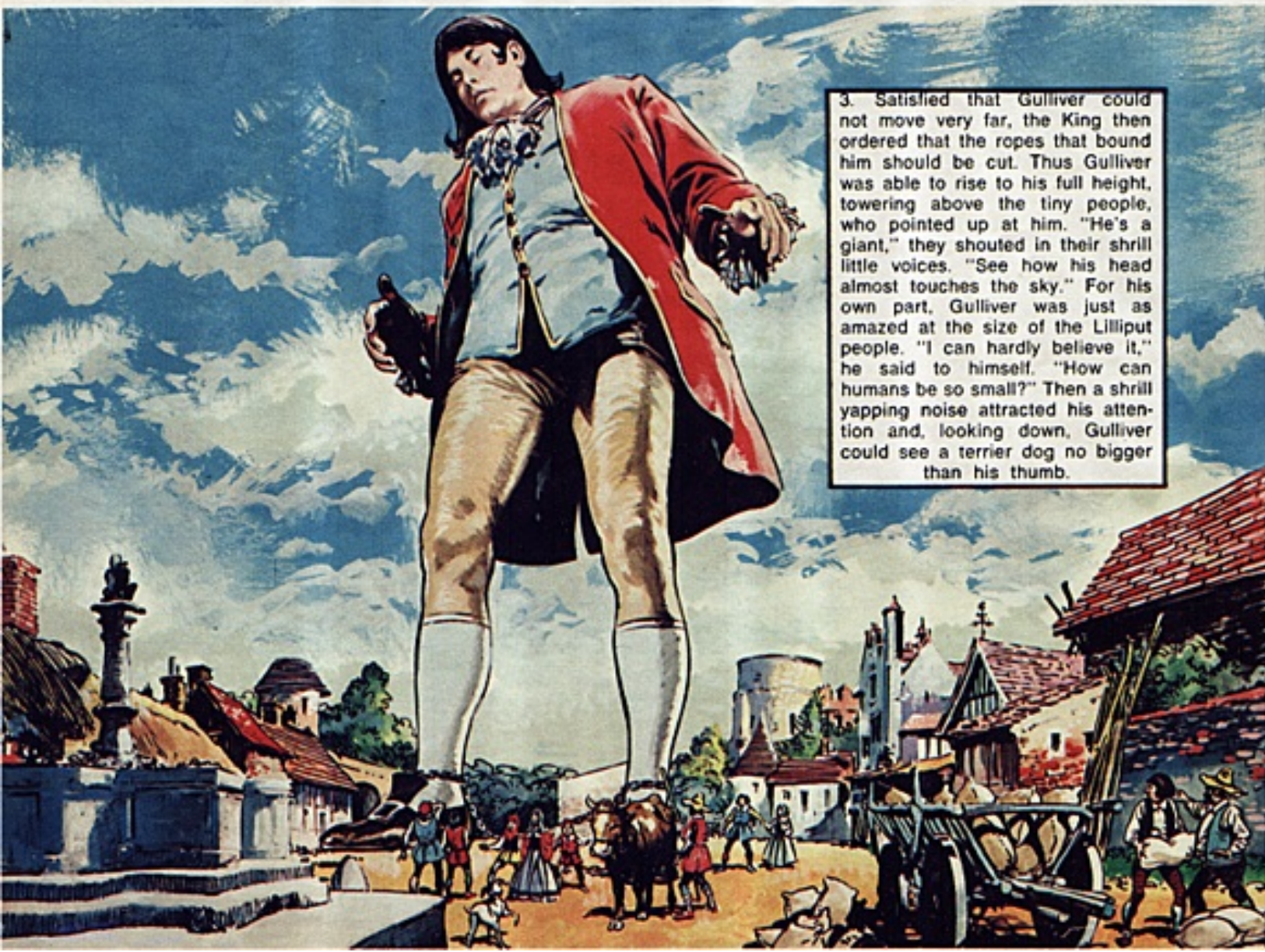
Gulliver's Travels



1. Poor Gulliver was still lying flat on a sort of sledge on wheels, tied down by many ropes, and after much pulling and puffing, the little people of Lilliput brought him to their city. There they halted outside an old temple, the largest building they had. It was to be Gulliver's home.



2. Naturally, the tiny humans were afraid of the big giant they had found on the seashore and they set about putting chains round Gulliver's ankles, fixing them to the wall. Then the King came along to look at the huge prisoner.



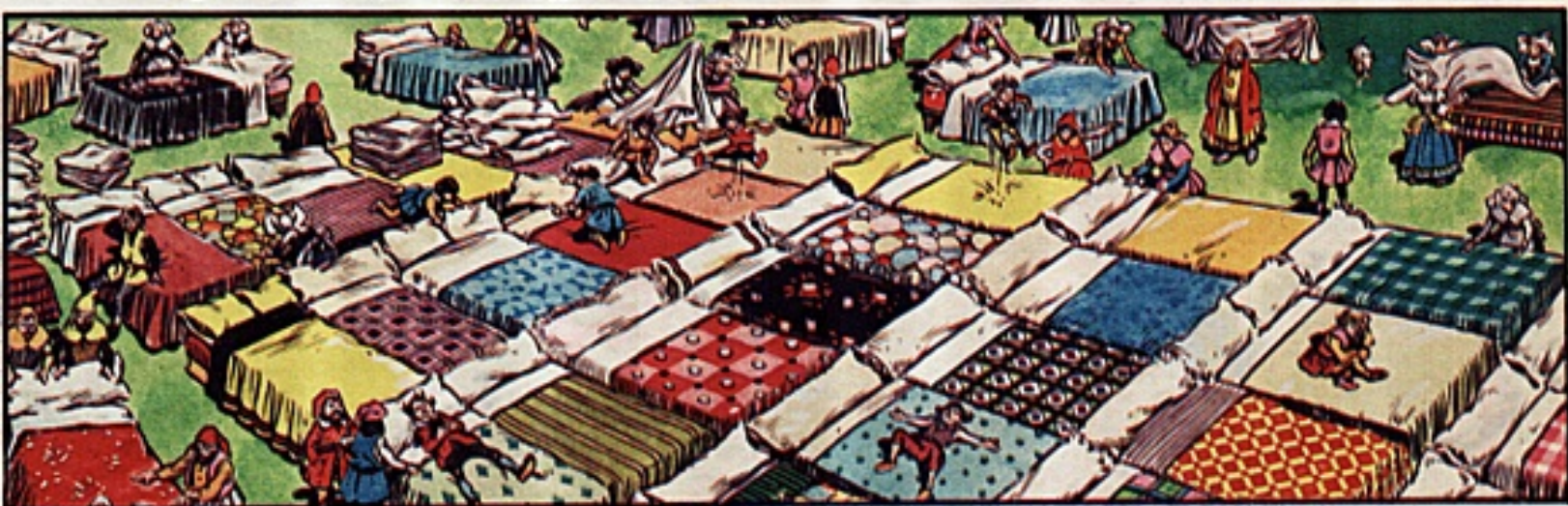
3. Satisfied that Gulliver could not move very far, the King then ordered that the ropes that bound him should be cut. Thus Gulliver was able to rise to his full height, towering above the tiny people, who pointed up at him. "He's a giant," they shouted in their shrill little voices. "See how his head almost touches the sky." For his own part, Gulliver was just as amazed at the size of the Lilliput people. "I can hardly believe it," he said to himself. "How can humans be so small?" Then a shrill yapping noise attracted his attention and, looking down, Gulliver could see a terrier dog no bigger than his thumb.



4. When night-time came it started to become quite cool, so Gulliver decided to seek shelter and warmth inside the old temple. It was then that he realised that being a giant in a land where everything was so small was not very comfortable. To get inside to sleep he had to wriggle and squirm.



5. Next day, the King arrived to see how his huge visitor had spent the night and from the inside of the temple came a deep groan. "Dear me," said the King. "It seems that he did not sleep too well."



6. The King could see what was wrong. In his cramped position, Gulliver was finding the stone floor of the temple a little hard. So he at once gave orders to his people that a bed was to be made of sufficient size to give the Man Mountain a comfortable sleep.

7. No less than six hundred of the people's beds were brought on carts and these were pushed into the temple and then squashed together to form one great big bed. It was hard work for the little people and Gulliver was very grateful for their efforts.



8. When the King and Queen came to visit him on the following day, they found him looking very cheerful. Gulliver listened most carefully to their voices, to try and pick up the language.

9. Among the first words he learned were those which helped him to ask the King if he could have the chains taken from his legs, and he was delighted when the King agreed.

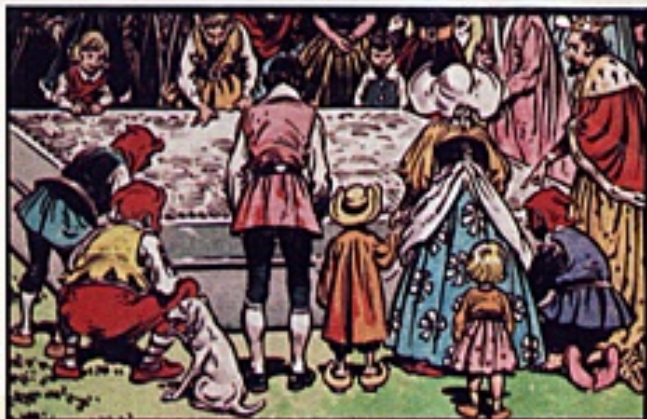
Gulliver's Travels



1. One day, the tiny King of Lilliput came and spoke to Gulliver. "Man Mountain, you have caused no harm up to now, but I must tell you that I am worried," he said. "There is one thing I desire and that is to see what you carry in your pockets, in case you have anything which might harm my people."



2. Gulliver at once agreed to this request, and he himself lifted up two of the King's officers so that they could explore his pockets. The first thing they found was a box made of silver.



3. They were very excited about it and with Gulliver's help they brought it down to the ground. The little people gathered round, struggling to lift the tight-fitting, shining metal lid.



4. They pushed and heaved and suddenly the lid flew open. Inside was a sort of brown dust, which flew up in clouds and set them all sneezing. What they had discovered, of course, was Gulliver's snuff-box. It tickled their noses and made tears come to their eyes as they tottered around, sneezing hard.



5. But between their sneezes they went on searching in other pockets and found some marvellous things—a razor, a book, and Gulliver's handkerchief, which to them was as big as a carpet.

6. They also found two pistols. They had never seen anything like them before and looked at them closely, their eyes wide open in amazement at the size and strange shape of them.



7. Gulliver could not help chuckling to himself. But there was one object in his trouser-pocket that they had not yet discovered, and he pulled it out, thinking that it would cause even more excitement for them.



8. It was Gulliver's watch. To the Lilliputians it appeared as a great engine of some kind, made of metal and marked on one side by strange figures. They started back in surprise. "This mighty engine makes a noise," gasped the little King. "What is it for?"



9. Gulliver did his best to explain that it was his watch and that it enabled him to tell the time. The King and his little people looked at all the things for a long while. They were things of great wonder, the like of which they had never seen.



10. But then the curious King demanded to be shown the working of the pistols. "Very well, Your Majesty," Gulliver agreed, "but I must warn you not to be afraid." He was very careful to load the pistols with only a small amount of gunpowder.



11. Then he let them off in the air. They made two loud but harmless bangs, which caused sudden panic among the Lilliputians.

12. Several fell down as though struck dead and the rest went rushing away. "Come back," said Gulliver.

Gulliver's Travels



1. After showing the tiny people of the island of Lilliput what he had in his pockets, causing them great wonder and astonishment, Gulliver was given his freedom to go wherever he wished. He, too, looked in great wonder and astonishment at the miniature cattle, never tiring of watching them grazing.



2. One day, when Gulliver was standing beside a cliff, the little King of Lilliput and his ministers rode up and came as close to his ear as they could. "I seek your help on a serious matter," said the King.



3. "We have enemies on the island of Blefuscu and we have been in a state of war for many years. It started when we disagreed about which end of a boiled egg should be broken first," went on the King. "We say the smaller end, but they say the bigger end."

4. Gulliver thought it was a silly argument to go to war about, but he kept a serious face and looked out over the sea. "Is that the island of Blefuscu yonder?" he asked. The King nodded. "Yes," he agreed. "They have a fleet of warships ready to attack us."



5. "Do not be alarmed, Your Majesty," said Gulliver, wading into the sea. "I will do my best to help you, because you have been kind to me."



6. The island of Blefuscu was only half a mile away, not a great distance to Gulliver, who easily swam it.



7. In less than half an hour the Man Mountain, as the Lilliput people called him, arrived in the harbour of Blefuscu and stood up in the middle of the fleet of enemy ships. And the sight of his huge figure towering above them gave the Blefuscu men a fright.

8. They had never seen such a giant before and many of them jumped from the decks of the warships in terror, to swim to the shore if they could. Others remained aboard, shivering and shaking with fright. "I'm not here to hurt you," cried Gulliver.



9. The roar of his voice made them squeal even more, but taking no notice of their struggles Gulliver scooped them up from the sea and put them back on board the ships as gently as he could. They ran through his wet fingers like a swarm of scared ants.



10. Then when there were no more to be rescued, Gulliver took hold of the mooring-lines of the ships and broke them. To him, of course, the ships' hawsers were no tougher than string. He smiled to himself at the thought of being a giant of such power.



11. "Your plan was to sail to Lilliput, and so you shall, my friends," he chuckled, and he started to walk through the sea.

12. Dragging the warships behind him like a fleet of toy boats, Gulliver headed back towards Lilliput.

Gulliver's Travels

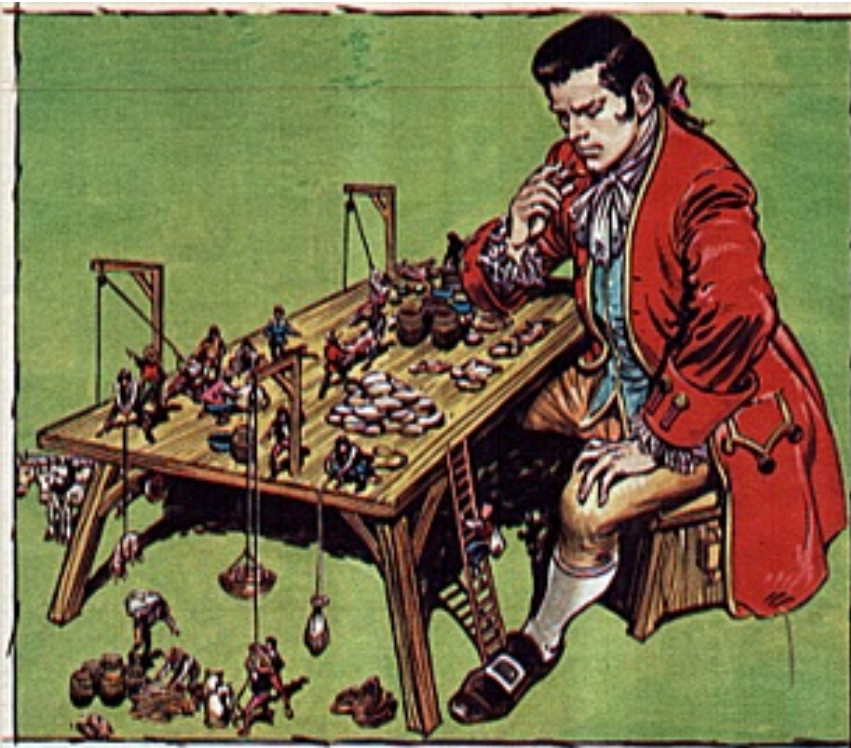
1. The King of Lilliput and all his courtiers were waiting at the royal port, anxious to see the result of Gulliver's trip to the enemy island of Blefuscu. They saw the warships moving towards them, but for a while did not see Gulliver, who was up to his neck in water at the deepest part of the sea. "The enemy ships are attacking us," groaned the King, until the giant figure of Gulliver came striding into the shallow water and was seen to be dragging the entire fleet of enemy warships behind him. To Gulliver the ships were no larger than the toy boats he had made when a young boy.



2. A great cheer went up from the tiny people. "Our enemies have been defeated, thanks to the Man Mountain," they shouted. But the first thing Gulliver did was to make sure that the King of Lilliput and the King of Blefuscu got together on his hand and made peace.



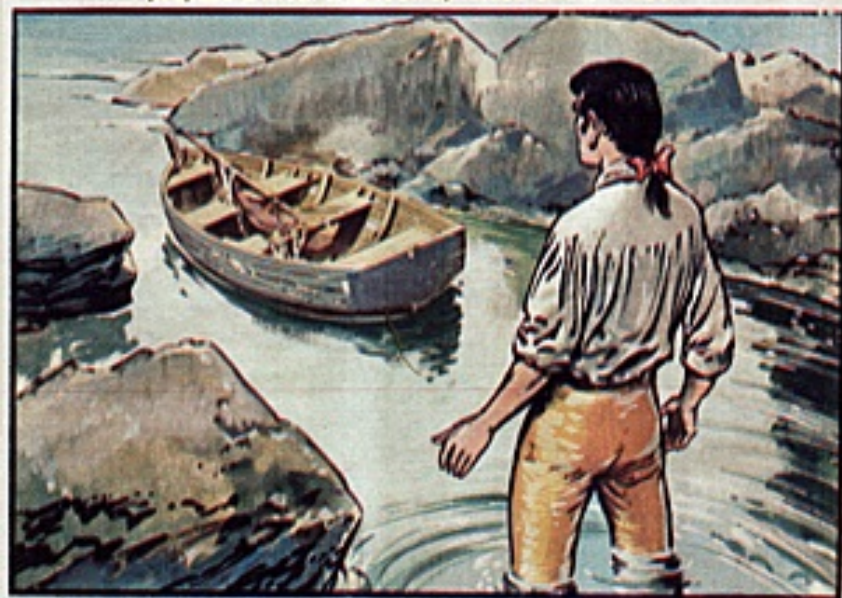
3. So the war between the people of Blefuscu and the people of Lilliput came to an end, and in the months that followed Gulliver was able to wander around the island, seeing how the tiny humans lived and what their customs were.



4. Bit by bit, Gulliver began to feel a little unhappy about the trouble he was causing to the little people, for it needed three hundred cooks to prepare a meal and took up much of their food.



5. Though he was always treated with kindness, Gulliver began to get homesick. Then, one day, a messenger arrived on horseback with news about a great ship he had just seen.



6. Excited, Gulliver hurried to a creek and there, to his great joy, he saw a ship's lifeboat which had floated in on the tide. It was battered and weather-beaten, but Gulliver was thrilled to see it.



7. He dragged it as far out of the water as he could and set about repairing it, helped by the eager little Lilliput workers.

8. "Good fortune has thrown this boat into my hands," thought Gulliver. "Now I can return home."

Gulliver's Travels



1. The ship's lifeboat that had been cast ashore on the island of Lilliput was a lucky "find" for Gulliver, who, with the help of the little people worked hard to make it seaworthy again. He himself collected thin tree-trunks to use in the strengthening of the damaged boat, and when he explained that he needed sails, the Lilliputians generously collected rolls of cloth, carrying them to a flat piece of ground near the water's edge.



2. Then came the task of spreading the sheets of cloth out and stitching them together. Everybody lent a hand, men and women and children. They sewed and measured and did not even halt for food and drink, which were brought to them at their place of work.

3. At last they had a piece of cloth so big that they marvelled at the size of it. Gulliver himself then took a hand in the making of a mainsail and a foresail, showing them the right shapes to cut and then instructing the little people how they were to be stitched.



4. And while the sails were being got ready, another working party got busy on the task of making oars for the boat. Their tallest trees were cut down and trimmed and shaped, as Gulliver wanted.

5. The air was full of wood-shavings, which were carted away in barrow-loads. Bit by bit the oars took shape, for the happy little people of Lilliput were clever craftsmen, very proud of their work.



6. Gulliver was proud of them, too, when he checked the boat and ran up the sails. "What wonderful people they are," he thought to himself. The ropes ran easily and when the sails slid into position and caught the slight breeze, he was thrilled to feel the boat move slightly, as though anxious to get to the open sea.

7. There was no doubt in his mind that the boat was seaworthy. Next came the task of putting supplies on board and a number of cows and sheep were driven across a gangplank. "These will provide food for the Man Mountain," said the Lilliputians, as they also rolled up barrels of drinking-water and wine.



8. Gulliver was thrilled and excited. "At last everything is ready and I can start my homeward journey," he said. "There was a time when I thought I would never leave this island, attractive though it is and full of such charming little people. Though I am homesick I shall miss them all very much."



9. And when the royal coach drew up on the cliff-top, Gulliver bent down and said goodbye to the King and Queen. "Thank you for all your kindness, gracious Majesties," he said. "I'll not forget you."



10. Gulliver pushed the boat away from the shore. The weather was perfect, so he set the sails and sent the craft surging for the open sea, with the shrill goodbyes sounding from Lilliput.

11. Half a mile out, Gulliver could still see the island, but the tiny people were invisible to him. "Who in the world will believe me when I tell of my adventures on Lilliput?" he thought.

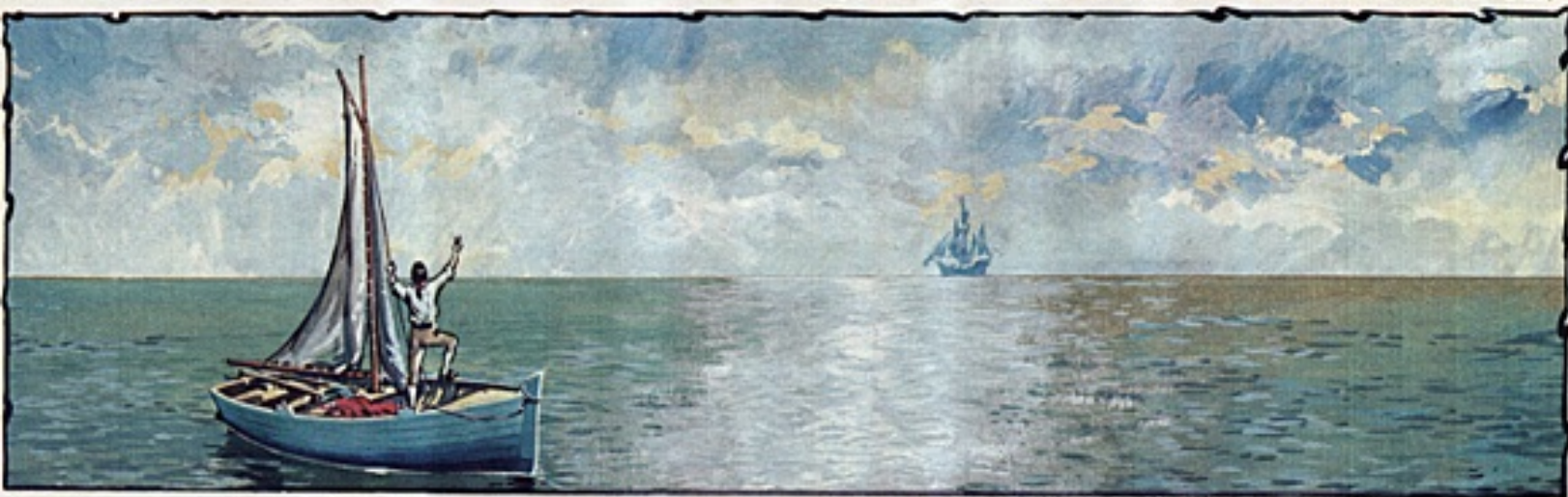
Gulliver's Travels



1. Gulliver had spent many happy months on the island of Lilliput among the tiny little people and he was a trifle sad at the thought of leaving them. But he knew, as he ate the food they had given him, that it was for the best.



2. "They were so very kind to me," he murmured to himself, "but there is no doubt that I was a burden to them, for at one meal I ate enough to keep a hundred of them in food for a week. So it is best that I make the effort to return to my own home." He settled down in the boat and went to sleep.

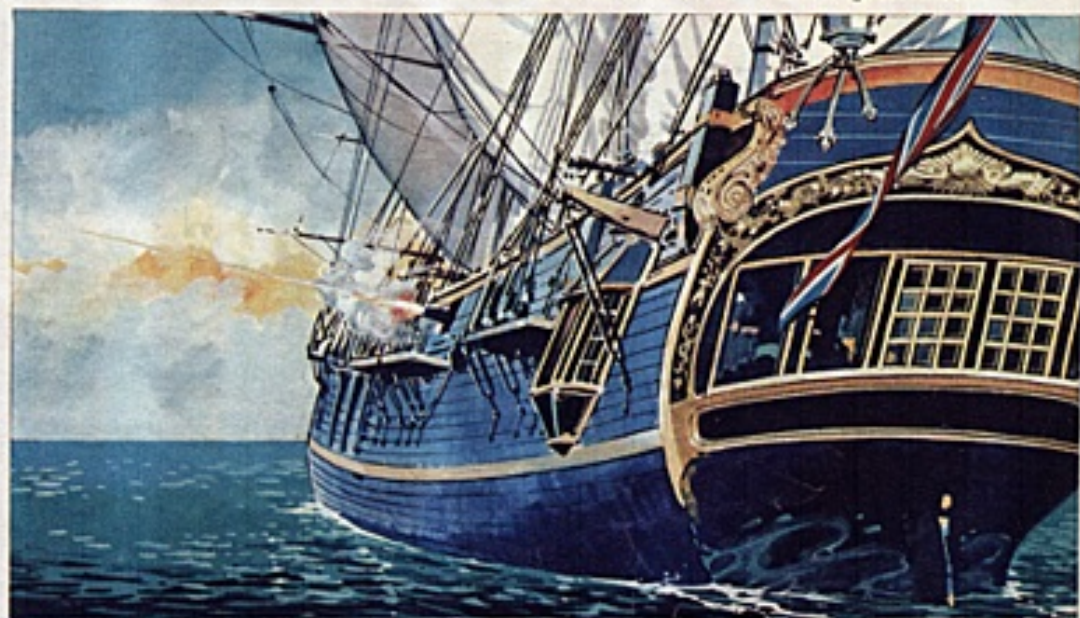


3. The sea was calm and dawn broke sharp and clear. Gulliver stretched himself and glanced around. Suddenly he saw something that made him jump excitedly to his feet. On the horizon he saw a ship, a proud and splendid merchantman, by the look of her.

4. For a moment Gulliver could hardly believe his eyes. He knew that ships were hardly ever seen in this part of the ocean, but he was determined to attract attention if he could. He raised the boat's sails, then stood up and waved until his arm grew tired.



5. "Where is the look-out? Does he not see me?" he groaned. Desperate to be seen, he raised his two pistols and fired them.



6. The double-crack of the pistol shots gained a response that gladdened Gulliver's heart. The merchantman put up a flag which showed she was British and then sounded off one of her cannons with a boom like distant thunder. "Ahoy!" shouted Gulliver.



7. Slowly the big ship altered course and turned in the direction of Gulliver's boat. In a few minutes, Gulliver was bumping alongside. "Thank you, captain," he called out, climbing to the deck. "I'm delighted to come aboard."



8. Captain Forster, master of the merchant-ship, asked Gulliver into his cabin, for he was curious to hear the castaway's own story. And when Gulliver had finished telling him about the land of Lilliput, the captain shook his head. "Who could believe such a tale?" he asked. "It is all impossible."



9. Gulliver was prepared for this, however. "My good captain, I do not blame you for having doubts," he said. "But I am not making the story up, I can assure you." And for proof he opened the canvas bag he had brought with him and, to the astonishment of the captain, put the tiny Lilliput cattle on the table.



10. After that, Captain Forster had not the slightest doubt that Gulliver's story was true. "Such an island may never be discovered again," he said. "I cannot delay my ship any longer but must sail for home."



11. So after many months, Gulliver returned to England, where the story of his amazing travels was told over and over again. People never seemed to tire of it, which was lucky for him.

12. The tiny little cows and sheep brought him great wealth, and everywhere in the country there were huge crowds wanting to see them. But no one saw Lilliput again, not even Gulliver.

Jesús Blasco

THE GOLDEN BOY



Once Upon a Time

13 March 1971 #109 - 17 April 1971 #114

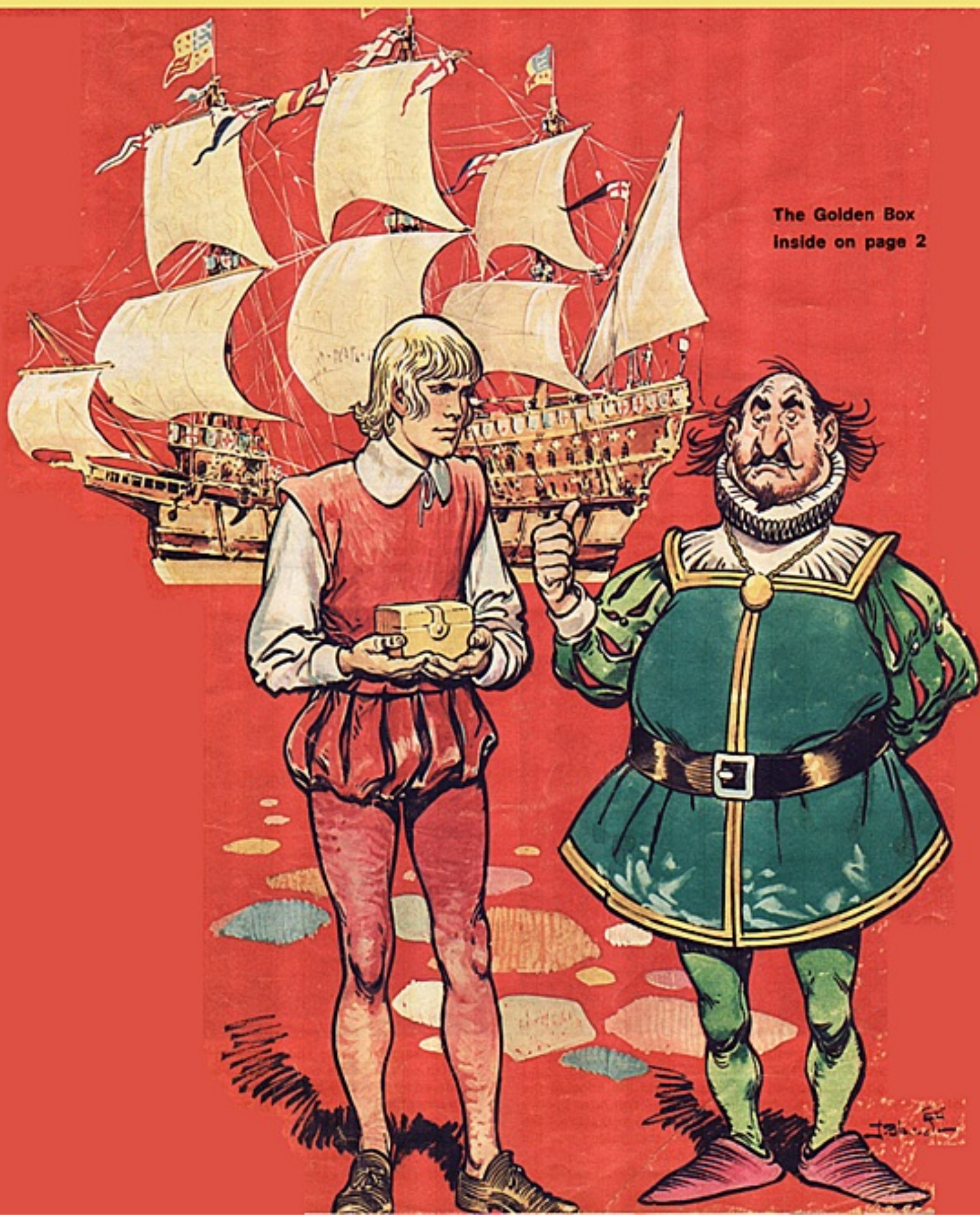
Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

No. 109 • 13th March 1971

PRICE 7½p • (1/6)

The Golden Box
Inside on page 2



THE GOLDEN BOY



1. Once upon a time there was a handsome young man by the name of Lorenzo, who lived deep in the country with his mother and father. He worked hard and was happy until one day, when he began to think about the world outside. "I have heard that there are towns and cities out yonder," he said to himself.



2. The more he thought about it, the more Lorenzo wanted to leave the farm. So he went to his mother and told her about it. She, being a woman of great understanding, did not plead with him to stay. "Go then, my son," she said. "Take these few belongings with you and seek your fortune with my blessing."



3. Passing through the forest, Lorenzo came to where his father was chopping wood. "I am sad to leave you, father," he said, "but I have need to go and discover what lies beyond the edge of the forest." "Very well, my son," his father replied. "You have been a great joy to me and have shared nobly in the hard work. Now I will share my greatest possession with you. Take this golden box but open it only if your life is in danger."



4. Thanking his father and promising to do as he had been told, Lorenzo set out on his own. Soon he left the forest behind him and wandered into country not known to him. He ate a small meal which his mother had given him, but by nightfall he was hungry again, and very tired. Then he saw a great house ahead of him. "I have never seen such a large and splendid place before," he said. "However, I shall be bold and ask for food and shelter."



5. So Lorenzo knocked at the kitchen door and was greeted by a serving-woman, who invited him in. "Sit you down at that table, young man," she said. "I will bring you food and drink, for I would not like it to be said that there is no welcome for a tired traveller in the home of the Duke of Dravonia."



6. Lorenzo was thankful for her kindness and ate well. But as he finished the meal, the door opened and into the kitchen came the most beautiful girl he had ever seen. "I—I am the Duke's daughter, Rosina," she told him. And they stared at each other for many minutes, for they had both fallen deeply in love.



7. Indeed, Rosina was so much in love that she hurried to her father and told him about the handsome young man. But the Duke of Dravonia was well known to be a hard man. "Prmph!" he growled. "I suspect that this fellow is a worthless scoundrel, who hopes to marry you and get a good share of my money. I will set him a task to do and, if he fails, I'll chop off his head."



8. He called Lorenzo into the room. "I don't know who you are, young man, but you will have to prove yourself very clever to win my daughter," he said, pointing to a picture on the wall. "By eight o'clock tomorrow morning you must make a large lake outside my palace, deep enough for great ships to sail upon it. If you succeed you win my daughter. Fail, and you lose your head!"

THE GOLDEN BOY



1. When he went to bed, Lorenzo knew that he would never go to sleep. "At first, when I arrived at this castle and fell in love with the Duke's daughter, Rosina, I was the happiest man in the world," he said. "And now I am the most miserable, for if I fail to complete the Duke's task by eight tomorrow, I will die."



2. Suddenly remembering the golden box given to him by his own father, Lorenzo snapped open the lid—and out jumped three tiny men with big, twitching noses. "We are your servants," they said. "What do you want, Lorenzo?" "Alas, I want too much," Lorenzo sighed. "I need a lake with ships on it in a few hours."



3. "Is that all?" asked one of the little men, with a sniff of scorn. "It was hardly worth opening the box for such a simple task. However, we do have a few moments to spare, so we will attend to it at once." And away they whizzed through the window into the moonlight. "Father did tell me to open the box if my life was in danger," said Lorenzo. "I hope it works."



4. After that he fell asleep. Half the night he dreamed of Rosina, the Duke's beautiful daughter, and half the night he dreamed of what might happen to him in the morning. So it was not really surprising that he was nervous and shaking when he walked down on the stroke of eight next morning. "Dare I open the door and look out?" he asked himself. "My legs feel like stalks of jelly."



5. But when he did open the door and walk outside the castle he saw a sight almost too amazing to be believed. There, in front of the castle, just as the Duke had demanded, was now a great lake of shimmering water, so deep that a whole fleet of stately navy ships sailed upon it. "How do you like it?" asked the tiny men.

6. "I can scarcely believe it," Lorenzo replied. "Last night it was just a grassy meadow and look at it now—a huge lake with ships proudly sailing on it. This is magic indeed, my little friends." "Oh, it was nothing really," they chuckled. "But now, please put us back in the box so that we can sleep."



7. When Rosina saw what had happened, she clapped her hands with joy. "Oh, how wonderful that Lorenzo did not fail in the task my father set him," she said. "Now he must consent to our marriage."



8. But when the Duke of Dravonia also saw what had happened, he merely frowned and scratched the end of his chin. "Hum!" he said. "Hum!" And still not wishing to let his daughter marry a farmer's boy, he said, "Oh, that was only your FIRST task."



9. The Duke looked at the lake. It was so big that he could hardly see the other side. "What I need is a bridge across it," he declared. "Make me one by eight tomorrow morning, young man, or you will die." "A bridge across all that?" gasped Lorenzo. "But it is not possible!"

THE GOLDEN BOY



1. The Duke of Dravonia was a hard man and he did not want his daughter to marry Lorenzo, the farmer's boy, so set him a task which seemed impossible . . . to build a mighty bridge across a lake of ships, which Lorenzo had made appear outside the night before.



2. "The young man is clever, but this time he will fail," chuckled the Duke. "Then I can make sure that my daughter Rosina will never marry him." But when he went to the window and looked out, the smile faded from his face and he gasped!



3. Outside was the great lake with the proud ships sailing on it and, wonder of wonders, there stretched across the water a huge bridge, built so tall that the ships could sail beneath it without their masts touching. "I don't believe it," he said.

4. But it was true enough. Thanks to the little 'magic men from the golden box, Lorenzo had been able to make the great bridge appear in just a few seconds, and now he hoped that the Duke would keep his promise and let him marry his daughter.



5. And when the little men came floating in through the window he caught them on the palms of his hands. "I can never thank you enough, my friends," he told them. "This is the second time that you have saved my life and I am grateful."



6. Boldly, Lorenzo then went to the Duke. "I have carried out your orders, sir," he said. "The bridge is across the lake as you wished and now I humbly ask that you allow me to marry your daughter Rosina, for I am sure that I can make her happy."



7. The Duke, however, was not a man of his word. "Hum—ho—hum!" he spluttered. "I must admit that you have done rather well, but I will agree only if you can produce for me a splendid castle, mounted upon pillars of solid gold by the morning."



8. Once again Lorenzo sighed and opened the golden box and let out the three little magic men. "I am afraid I must ask you yet another favour, and I hope that it will be the last for many a long day, my faithful friends," he said. "Would it be possible for you to carry out the Duke's wish?" "Nothing could be easier," was their reply.



9. Lorenzo smiled as he watched them fly away into the night, then he himself went to bed and slept peacefully and well. By now he knew that his happy little helpers from within the golden box seemed to be able to do anything asked of them. So, early next morning, he was delighted but not too surprised to see a mighty castle in position by the side of the lake. It had towers and flags and stood upon solid gold pillars that gleamed in the sunshine.

THE GOLDEN BOY



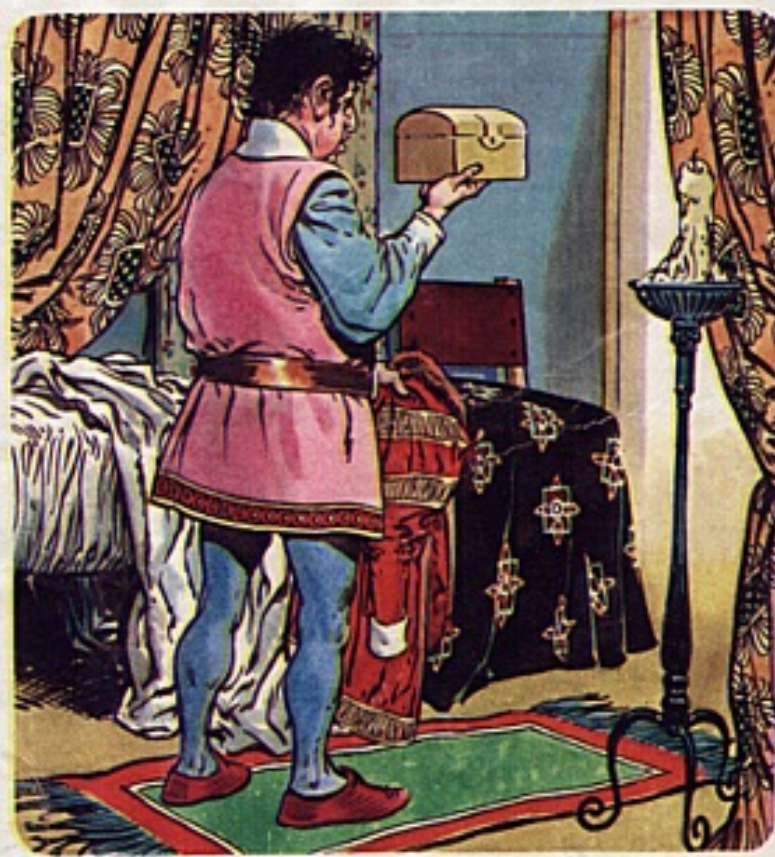
1. With the help of the three little magic men in the golden box, Lorenzo had completed the third task set him by the Duke of Dravonia. He had produced a castle set on golden pillars, so now the Duke could not refuse to allow the young farmer's boy to marry his daughter Rosina, and the wedding took place.



2. After it was over, Lorenzo showed his beautiful bride how he had performed the difficult tasks. And when the merry little men flew out of the golden box, she smiled at them. "I shall never be able to thank you enough," she told them. The magic men blushed, but said: "Oh, say no more. To us it was easy."



3. In the days that followed, Lorenzo and Rosina were very happy—and even the hard-hearted old Duke seemed to enjoy having the farmer's boy as a son-in-law. They liked nothing better than to go out riding together in the forest. "This is truly wonderful for me," said Lorenzo. "Nothing can go wrong."



4. But had Lorenzo been in his room at the castle he might have thought differently. For at that moment one of the men servants was in the room tidying up, and he came upon the golden casket. "What might this be?" he thought to himself. "I have never seen the likes of it before. What can be inside?"



5. Greedy and curious, he lifted the lid, and then got the surprise of his life. For instead of finding a few gold coins inside the box, he released the three little magic men! "What do you wish of us?" asked one of them. "We are the servants of whoever opens the box. Tell us your need and we will supply it."

6. For a moment or two the servant just stared at them in great wonder, then began to think that this, perhaps, was the moment he had been longing for. "If you can perform any task, then I command you to take this palace away from this spot and place it in another part of the country," he told the tiny magic men."



7. "That is easily done, O master," they chuckled. One of them snapped his fingers, another pointed into the far distance, and the third said: "Fly, great palace, through the air—our master wants you over there." And with a whoosh the great palace flew away!

8. Tired but happy, Lorenzo, Rosina and the Duke presently made their way back home—and you can imagine their surprise when they came to the spot where the great palace should have been. "It's—it's gone!" stammered the Duke. "It has vanished into thin air. What sort of trickery is this?" Lorenzo gasped and thought, "Why have my little magic friends done this to me?"

THE GOLDEN BOX



1. When Lorenzo, Rosina his wife, and the Duke of Dravonia returned from their horse ride they were shocked to find that the splendid castle had disappeared. The Duke turned angrily on Lorenzo. "By some clever trickery you produced the castle for me and in return I allowed you to marry my daughter," he said. "Now I order you to find my castle."



2. As he rode away, Lorenzo thought hard. "I believe I can guess what has happened," he said to himself. "Somebody, one of the servants perhaps, found the golden box in my room and opened it, letting out the three little magic men. And in response to his wish they have transported the castle away."



3. Without the golden box, Lorenzo felt lost. He no longer had any powers of magic to help him and he wandered on through the forests, bewildered and unhappy. "Where can I get help in my search for the lost castle?" he wondered. "If I do not find it, then I shall also lose my lovely wife." After a while he came to a strange place, the Kingdom of Mice.



4. Curious, Lorenzo went deeper into the Kingdom of Mice, and upon a tree-branch he saw a tiny mouse figure wearing a crown. "I am the Mouse King," it said to Lorenzo. "I can see from your sad eyes that you are very unhappy. Pray, tell me what troubles you, friend."



5. Lorenzo told the Mouse King about the vanished castle and the golden box. "I doubt if Your Mouse Majesty can help me," he said. But the Royal Mouse was only too willing to try. He called in all his subjects, who assembled in a squeaking circle. When they were asked if any of them had seen the lost castle, one of the mice stepped forward. "Yes, I have," it said. "I know where it is."



6. The little mouse offered to guide Lorenzo to the castle, so the farm-boy lost no time in getting into the saddle. "Don't worry about me, good sir," squeaked the mouse. "I can ride very well at the back, behind you." It climbed up the horse's tail.



7. So they set off together on their long journey. Lorenzo did not know where he was going, but followed directions from the tiny mouse guide. "Take the path to the left here," the mouse told him. "Two miles along, go to the right." They travelled for many, many miles through quiet and strange forests, thick with trees.



8. At last the mouse hopped in front of Lorenzo and pointed to the shape of a great castle tower rising through the mist of the forest. "There it is, my friend," it said. Lorenzo felt his heart jump for joy. "I have found the castle," he said. "But how do I get the golden box to speed it back?"

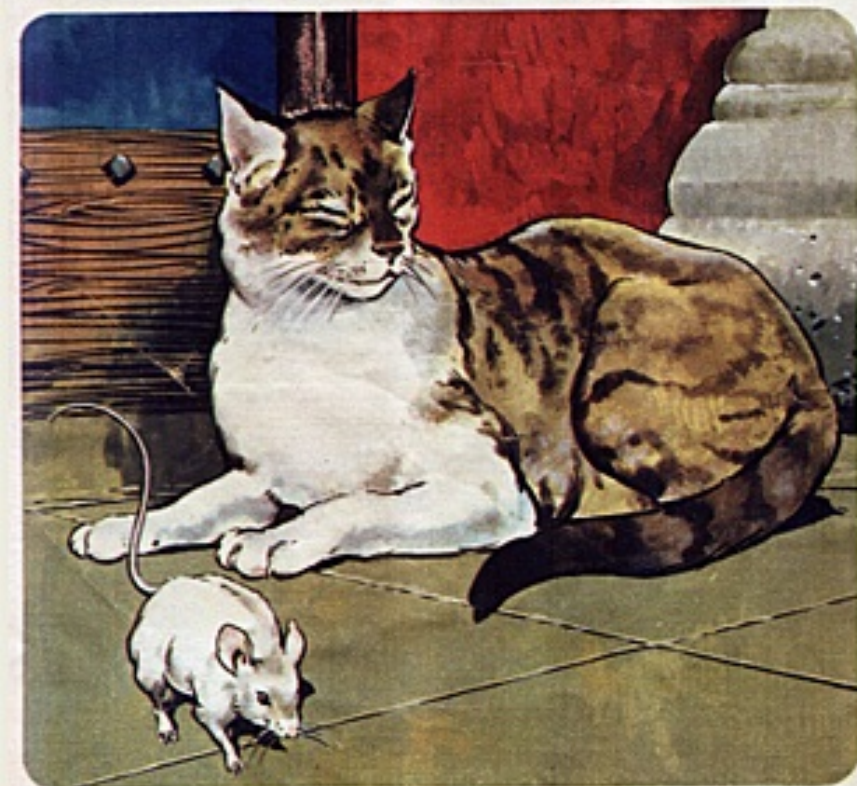
THE GOLDEN BOX



1. Thanks to a tiny sharp-eyed mouse from the Kingdom of Mice, Lorenzo had at last found the castle he had been seeking. It had been carried away by magic by the three little wizards in the golden box, stolen by a greedy servant. Boldly, Lorenzo rode towards the castle gateway, but was halted by two guards. "No one passes, by command of the owner, our master," they said.



2. So Lorenzo had to obey and move away, wondering what next he should do. His problem was solved when the mouse slipped from the horse's back and, almost invisibly, moved towards the guards. "Do not worry," it said in a tiny squeaky voice, "I am small enough to slip past them without being seen, and if the golden box is within the castle I will find it for you."



3. Having wriggled his way past the soldiers, the brave little mouse entered the castle to search for the golden box. But almost at once it came upon its most hated enemy—a cat. For a moment the mouse hesitated in fear, but then saw that the cat was quietly sleeping, so screwed up its courage and crept by.



4. Taking care not to be seen, the brave little mouse moved silently through the castle and in an upstairs room came upon the golden box. Now came the problem of getting it out, but by pushing it with all its might, the mouse managed to get it to the outside of the castle.



5. Lorenzo was overjoyed to see the golden box again. "Now I have the power to put things as they were," he said. He opened the box and out popped the three little magic men. "At your service, good sir," they said. "What is your command?" "Take this castle back to the place where it once stood," answered Lorenzo. "My future happiness depends on it, so please do not fail me, little men, I beg of you."



6. In a flash it was done. The magic men snapped their fingers and the great castle rose from the ground and soared away into the sky. The greedy servant watched it go, shaking his fists in rage. But it served him right, for he had stolen the golden box.



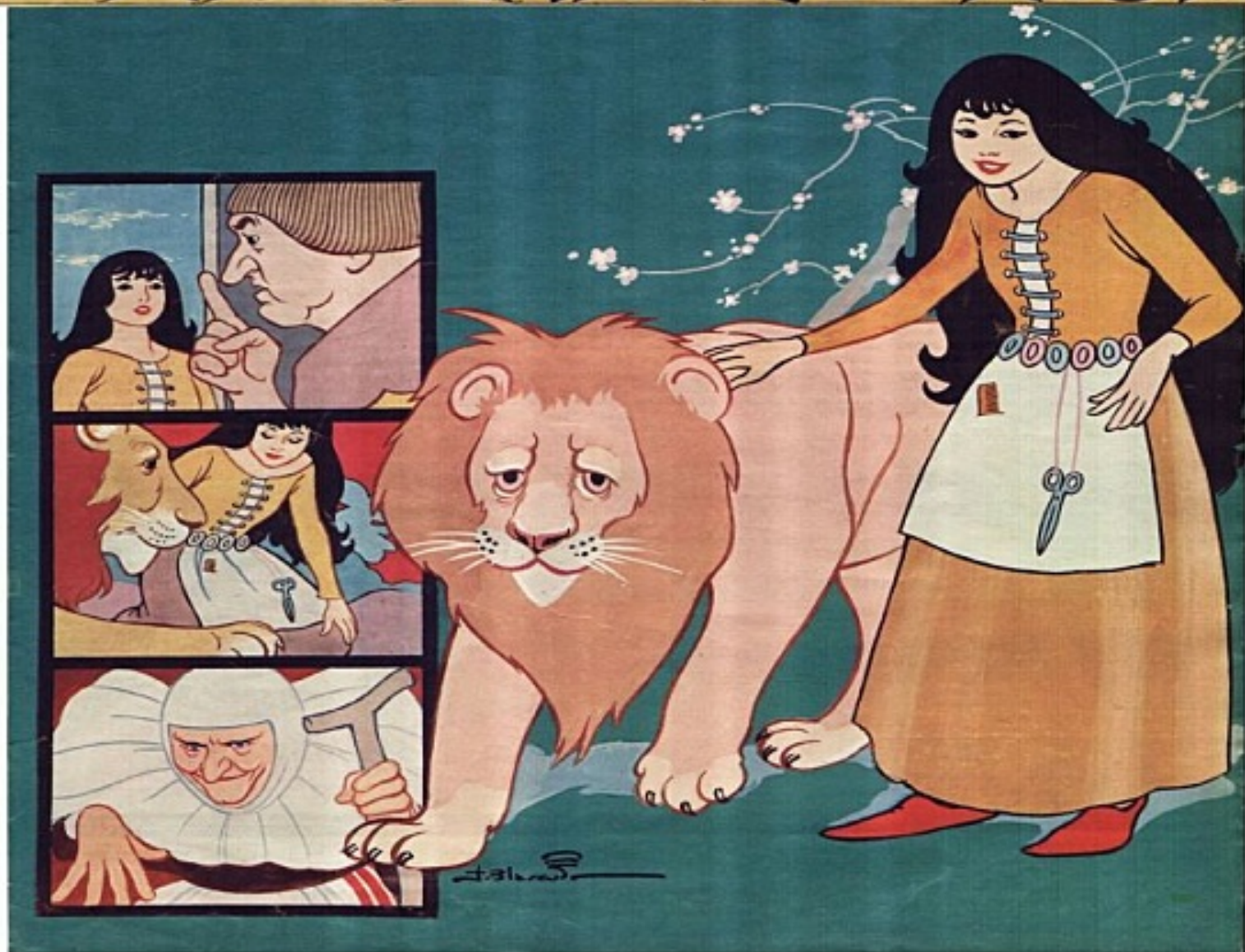
7. In a rush of wind, which sounded like a tornado, the splendid castle came swooping down and landed on its gleaming gold pillars in the exact spot from which it had been taken. And you can well imagine the joy of Rosina, Lorenzo's wife, when she saw it. "My dear husband has brought it back, so all is well," she smiled.



8. So Lorenzo and Rosina were together again and the Duke of Dravonia was happy to get his castle back. It was all because of the little mouse and they all waved their thanks to it as it returned to the Kingdom of Mice. And even the magic men from the golden box were glad to be with Lorenzo again.

Jesús Blasco

The ENCHANTED LION



Once Upon a Time

The Enchanted Lion

24 April 1971 #115 - 15 May 1971 #118

The Water of Life

04 September 1971 #134

The Brave Young Shepherd

25 September 1971 #137

The Water of Life



1. Long ago, three brothers and a sister lived in a palace with a beautiful garden. Many people came to see the garden, and among them was a kindly old man. He said, "It is very beautiful, but you still need three things—a pitcher of the water of life, a branch of the tree of beauty, and a talking bird." And he presented Emma, the sister, with a knife that shone eerily in the evening sunlight.



2. "If ever that becomes dull, it means that danger threatens," he explained. "The things you need are in a beautiful garden on the mountainside." He bade them farewell, and shortly afterwards the eldest brother set forth. He was still some way from the mountain, when he met a giant, who asked him where he was going. He explained, and the giant warned him.



3. He said, "Many people have come this way, seeking what you seek, but they have not returned. When you reach the mountain, you will see many stones. As you walk past them, they will set up a clamour, but you must not look round at them. Walk straight on, and when you reach the garden, take what you want." The eldest brother thanked him, and went on his way, and after some time, arrived at the mountain. There he saw the stones, and they had faces like people.



4. As he went up the mountain, he passed quite close to the stones. The clamour they made was very great, and he forgot the giant's warning. He was curious, and looked round—and immediately turned into a stone himself. When he did not return home, his two brothers and Emma wondered what had happened. They looked at the knife, and found it had turned very dull. It was a warning. Great danger was threatening them!



5. While Emma was still looking at the knife, the second brother decided that he must go and search for the three things they needed for their garden. But he did not return, either, and so the third brother set out. He also failed to come back, and so Emma decided that she herself should go to look for the water of life, the tree of beauty and the talking bird.



6. She set forth in fear and trembling and met the giant, who warned her about the stones on the mountainside. As she went past the stones, she even heard her brothers' voices coming from them, but she did not turn round and look at them. At last she reached the beautiful garden, took her pitcher, and filled it from the fountain of the water of life. She had succeeded where her brothers had failed!

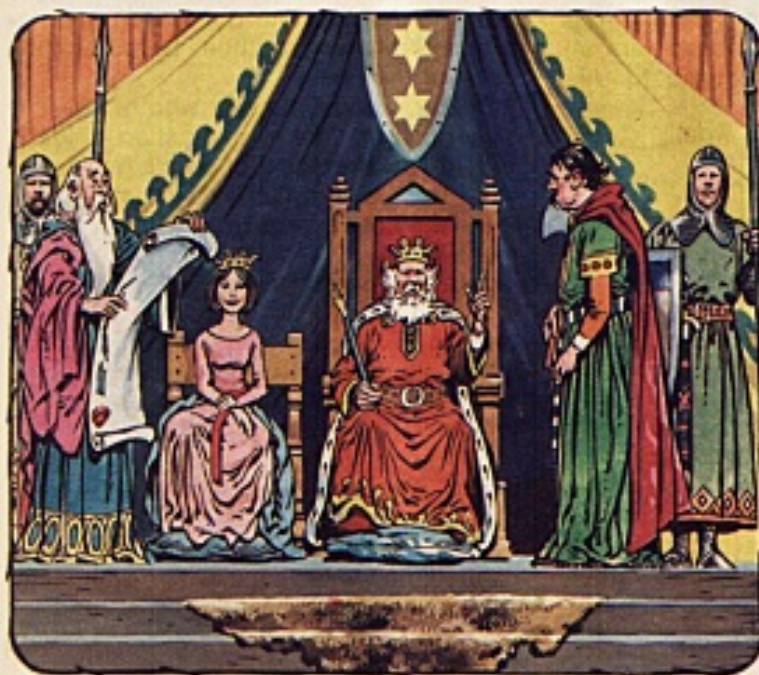


7. Emma then broke off a branch of the tree of beauty, and put the talking bird into a cage she had brought with her. On the way back, she spilled some of the water on to the stones, and to her delight they turned back into her brothers. Others turned back into the many boys and girls, who had tried to reach the garden and failed.



8. All the boys and girls danced and sang with joy, and then thanked Emma for what she had done for them. The three brothers were tremendously proud of their sister. Then they led a gay procession down the mountainside, and waved to the giant as they passed him. He waved back, delighted to see them all alive again. All the parents were delighted to see their children again, and there was great rejoicing. And Emma and her brothers' garden became even more popular with its water of life, its branch from the tree of beauty, and its talking bird.

The Brave Young Shepherd



1. Once upon a time, King Argus of Nuralia decided to make a new law. It was that whenever he sneezed, all his subjects had to say "To your good health, Your Majesty." "Go and tell my people of this new rule," he said to his Prime Minister. And so the poor man, who knew better than to argue with the King once his mind was made up, went to spread the news.



2. Everyone obeyed the new law, except for a young shepherd boy called Alan. Because he refused to say "To your good health, Your Majesty," he was taken before the King who commanded him to say it. But the shepherd boy said, "I will not say those words until you give me your daughter's hand in marriage." "Throw him into the bear pit," roared the King, very angry at Alan's words.



3. But imagine the King's surprise when he went to the bear pit the next morning and found Alan sitting on an overturned bucket, talking to the bear. The beast was not at all its usual fierce self, but sat listening with a mild interested expression on its face. "Now, you will say the words," shouted the King. But Alan answered calmly, "Not unless you give me the hand of your daughter in marriage."



4. At his words, the King was even more annoyed than before. "To the wolves with him!" he roared. And so Alan was put in a pen with a pack of hungry wolves. But before they could attack him, he took from his pocket a tin whistle and started to play it. The sound was so sweet that the wolves got up on their hind legs and began to dance. They were so occupied with the dance that they did not attack Alan. "Throw him over a high cliff," shouted the angry King.



5. So poor Alan was taken by a group of soldiers to the edge of a very high cliff. Looking down, he knew that if he was pushed he would be killed. Luckily he was a quick-thinking lad and he knew that the only way of saving himself lay in trying to distract the soldiers' attention. "Look," he cried, pointing beyond them, "there is a lion devouring its prey." Startled, the guards looked away, and while they did so, the shepherd boy tore off his outer clothing.



6. Quick as a flash, he threw the clothes over the edge of the cliff and then hid behind a nearby bush. When the soldiers saw his clothes lying on the rocks they thought that the shepherd boy had jumped. "We must go and tell the King," they cried. "He will be pleased with us."



7. But Alan was ahead of them. Quickly recovering his clothes, he ran back to the palace as fast as he could and burst into the King's private apartment—just in time to hear the King saying, "I would have given him a palace and great wealth if he had said the words, 'To your good health, Your Majesty.'" "I still won't, until I have the hand of your daughter in marriage," cried Alan. The King and the Princess could hardly believe their eyes.



8. The King was so taken aback that he gave in and told Alan that he could marry his daughter, Melita. "You are a brave man," he smiled, "and I think you will make my daughter happy." At his words, Alan dropped to his knees and then raising his glass, he said, "To your very good health, Your Majesty." Because the young man had at last said the right words, great wealth and a palace were his and he and the Princess lived happily ever after.